

## Israelis attack Tyre camp

TYRE (AP) — Israeli gunboats, helicopter gunships and long-range artillery blasted a Palestinian refugee camp near this southern port city Tuesday and police said the shantytown was on fire. The bombardment of Rashidiyah came hours after resistance fighters unleashed a barrage of Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets against an Israeli-controlled border enclave in South Lebanon (see page 2). Police in Tyre said helicopters strafed Rashidiyah under parachute flares after a 30-minute bombardment by several gunboats and Howitzer batteries poised along the border. Police said fires raged in several sectors of the camp on the southeastern outskirts of the city, 20 kilometres north of the Israeli frontier and 80 kilometres south of Beirut. "We believe there are many casualties, both killed and wounded, but we do not have a specific breakdown yet," said a spokesman. He said the Israeli bombardment began at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT) and was still underway 45 minutes later. Rashidiyah, home for more than 18,000 U.N.-registered refugees, is a key stronghold of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

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## Planes pound Iraq; Baghdad says allied PoW killed

### Saddam raises prospect of nuclear, chemical and biological strikes

## Iraqi president raises war stakes

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has warned that his country's missiles could carry chemical, biological or nuclear warheads, and suggested Baghdad might use unconventional weapons against the allies, according to an interview.

Correspondent Peter Arnett of the American Cable News Network (CNN) said he asked President Saddam during a 90-minute Monday interview whether he would reject the use of chemical weapons if the U.S.-led allies also refrained from them.

"I don't mean that," Arnett quoted President Saddam as saying. "Iraq will use weapons that equate the weapons used against us."

"He said missiles fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia, which he proudly called Al Hussein missiles... had nuclear, chemical and biological capability," Arnett said.

Arnett did not say in his telephone account of the interview from Baghdad whether President Saddam had stated categorically whether Iraq has nuclear warheads.

Iraq is known to have developed chemical and biological weapons, but some Western analysts believe the long-range but low-payload missiles cannot carry non-conventional warheads.

The missiles that have rained down on Israel and Saudi Arabia, have all carried conventional explosive warheads.

Some analysts believe Iraq was close to developing nuclear weapons, but allied military officials claimed most of Iraq's nuclear research and development facilities were damaged or destroyed in the allied air raids that began Jan. 17.

"The sense I got from the interview was that President Saddam Hussein was saying that he has been able to maintain the balance of the war using conventional weapons as of this point," said Arnett.

"He was suggesting, though, that as losses became too great he

may be obliged to use the unconventional weapons that he has at his disposal."

Baghdad's "Mother of Battles Radio" broadcast a similarly ominous threat of "strategic weapons," without specifying what these weapons were.

"What will emerge from these days when these weapons are used is more tragic days for the allied forces who began the aggression then lost control of it," said the radio.

The radio Tuesday accused U.S. President George Bush of being immoral and a liar.

"Bush, your crimes will not pass without a deterrent punishment to you and the likes of your Zionists," said the radio.

The radio said 50 Israeli warplanes headed for Saudi Arabia Monday morning. Iraq said that Israel was assisting in the war against Iraq, a charge denied by both Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Arnett, one of the few Western correspondents left in Baghdad, said the interview took place in a bungalow in Baghdad. Arnett's reports are screened by Iraqi military censors.

President Saddam said the allies had been the first to use oil as a weapon by attacking Iraqi oil facilities.

Iraq's use of oil as a weapon was justified, he said.

The allies have accused Iraq of causing an ecological disaster by pumping about 11 million barrels of oil into the northern Gulf. U.S. aircraft bombed pumping equipment at the weekend, staunching the flow of crude.

Asked about Iraqi aircraft which have flown to Iran, President Saddam said Baghdad and Tehran had similar views on the war, seeing it as a battle "between faith and infidel."

Allied sources say up to 100 Iraqi aircraft, including some of Iraq's most sophisticated warplanes, have flown to Iran over the last few days.

Iraq, which has declared neutrality in the war, has said it will impose the planes until the end of hostilities.

## Israel will enter war after 1 month — Arens

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Tuesday that Israel would have to take action on the Gulf from within a month unless U.S.-led forces succeed in stopping Iraqi missile attacks on the Jewish state.

Asked on Israel Television how long the Jewish state could endure Iraqi missile raids, Mr. Arens said:

"The situation... will not last for two months and even for one month. I simply estimate that a situation in which we continue to be neutral or not active and their ability to launch missiles at us is of paralysis, such a thing will not continue for a month."

Mr. Arens did not specify what response Israel would make, but repeated the government's pledge to eventually retaliate against Iraq regardless of any action by President Saddam Hussein.

"We are at war with him and we will act accordingly... he asked us and a response will be in any case," Mr. Arens said.

Despite seven Iraqi missile barrages aimed at Israel, the government has so far heeded U.S. as to stay out of the conflict as not to jeopardise the American-led coalition in the Gulf, which includes Arab states.

Mr. Arens said that Israel did contribute to the U.S. effort to wipe out Scud missile launchers in western Iraq threatening the Jewish state, noting that action would have to be coordinated with the United States.

Mr. Arens spoke a day after a Scud fired from Iraq crashed an olive grove near the village

## King: Arab Nation at a crucial phase

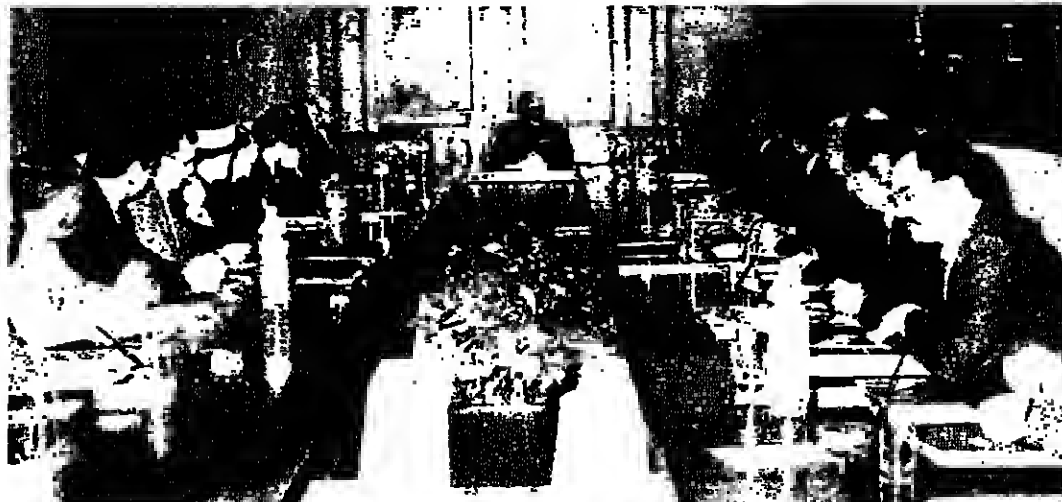
AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Nation is at the moment passing through one of the most dangerous phases in its life, His Majesty King Hussein told the Cabinet Tuesday.

During a visit to the Prime Ministry and after meeting for some time with Prime Minister Moudar Badran, the King reviewed developments in the Gulf war and the bombardment and destruction that Iraq is being subjected to.

The King said the Arab Nation was being divided and polarised and its resources were being drained. He called for increased efforts and solidarity to ensure the nation occupied the position it deserved.

King Hussein reviewed Jordan's continued efforts since the start of the crisis to defend the conflict.

King Hussein, the Supreme



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday chairs a meeting of the cabinet (Petra photo)

Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, earlier Tuesday visited the third and the fifth royal armoured divisions where he was received by the

divisions' commanders and senior officers and briefed on the duties assigned to the various divisions' formations. The King voiced satisfaction

with the high morale of the divisions' personnel and landed their continuing efforts to defend the homeland.

## Somalia gets new president

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Somali rebels, named a new president. Tuesday as fighting erupted anew in the capital of Mogadishu, just days after the rebels deposed the nation's former leader and claimed to have seized control.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the gunfire, but sources said it appeared not to be a continuation of the celebratory shooting that has erupted periodically since the rebels claimed to have taken over Saturday night.

The whereabouts of deposed President Mohammad Siad Barre, a former military commander about 80 years old, remained undetermined.

A Kenyan pilot, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said military authorities in the southern town of Kisumu had told him Mr. Siad Barre and about 100 others headed by road Monday towards Kenya.

Kenya has offered the deposed leader safe passage to a third country.

In another report, the government-run Kenya Times newspaper said local supporters had arranged to airlift Mr. Siad Barre from Kisumu to Kenya.

The rebel United Somali Congress (USC) rebels announced the appointment of Ali Mahdi Muhammad as Somalia's new president effective Monday.

The news broadcast over Radio Mogadishu said the rebels made the appointment "after considering the first decree that the USC has taken over the administration of the country and the need for a quick appointment of a head of state who can display unity pending consultations."

The reference to "pending consultations" was the only suggestion that Mr. Muhammad's administration would be an interim one as the rebels had promised with a later permanent government to be drawn from the nation's five main insurgent movements.

Mr. Muhammad is a hotelier and businessman of the large central Hawiye clan, from which the rebels drew their strength, and has been a key figure in the rebels' Mogadishu representation for some time, said Mohammad Robleh, a rebel spokesman in London.

Mr. Muhammad, in his 50s, was a school teacher, a local UNICEF director, and a parliamentarian before Mr. Siad Barre seized power. He was imprisoned from 1969 until the mid-1970s "for being a member of the former government," said Mr. Robleh.

Exiles from various opposition groups are scattered across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the United States.

## Iran 'surprised' by flood Iraqi planes

Combined agency dispatches

IRAN SAID Tuesday it was surprised when waves of Iraqi fighter planes crossed its frontier over the weekend in one of the biggest stocks of the Gulf war. And the United States said it was prepared to attack any Iraqi planes that try to rejoin the Gulf war.

Hassan Rohani, spokesman of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Iraq, faced with the allied forces' superior technology in air warfare, probably wanted to preserve its planes for use in a possible ground offensive.

Iran says the planes will be held until the Gulf war ends.

Military sources in Britain said Monday about 100 Iraqi planes, including top-notch fighters and bombers, had gone to Iran since the war began Jan. 17.

Iran's United Nations ambassador said Tehran, neutral in the war between Iraq and U.S.-led multinational forces, had protested to Baghdad over the aircraft arrival.

"Today we were suddenly told an air attack was underway — we did not know by whom, but were told the planes were coming from the direction of Iraq," Mr. Rohani told a group of engineers in Tehran Saturday. His speech was printed in Tehran's Resalat daily Monday.

Iranian fighters scrambled, intercepted the intruders and found out they were Iraqi planes, he said.

"They were told to turn back to Iraq, but they said they were running out of fuel and carried no bombs or missiles," Mr. Rohani said.

The planes were allowed to land but one crashed.

"The first plane which attempted to touch down veered off the tarmac, somersaulted and caught fire. Others were also damaged," Mr. Rohani said.

Iran has so far said 13 Iraqi planes have tried to land in Iran. Three crashed, two others were damaged and one pilot has been confirmed dead.

Mr. Rohani said Iraq could not switch on its ground radars because they would immediately be detected and destroyed by the U.S.-led forces' advanced air-to-ground missiles.

"The Iraqis don't want to be active in the air war at least for the time being. Maybe they are waiting for a ground war before using their air capabilities," he said.

Iran's U.N. Ambassador Kamal Kharrazi told Tehran Radio in an interview from New York that he told U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Iran was confiscating the aircraft until the end of hostilities.

The U.S. government said that its military was prepared to attack any Iraqi planes that try to rejoin the Gulf war from Iran and increased to 100 its own estimate of the number of Iraqi planes in Iran.

"Iran has said they were neutral. We would try to hold them to that," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

He declared the U.S. military knows where the Iraqi planes are. "They watched them go in," he said. "They'll attack them when they come out."

Mr. Fitzwater dismissed as "the same old propaganda" Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's comments in a Monday interview with Cable News Network in Baghdad.

U.S. military officials, speaking on condition they not be identified, said Tuesday that as many as 100 Iraqi planes were now in Iran. When the war began, U.S. officials said that Iraq's air force had about 700 planes.

A Defence Department official said Monday that the Iraqi planes include top-line fighters and represent "the flower of their air force." U.S. officials said the planes were clearly being moved to avoid destruction by allied bombers, but they puzzled over whether the pilots were deserting or following orders.

"It could be a plan to save those aircraft for another time, to include during this conflict or after this conflict," Lieutenant-General Thomas Kelly, director of operations for the Joint Military Staff, said.

Secretary of State James Baker said the United States had received assurances through diplomatic channels "that the aircraft would be kept in Iran" and that Iran was maintaining "complete neutrality."

The Iraqi warplanes flown to Iran include the most advanced fighter aircraft, significantly reducing Iraq's capability to bomb Israel, Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Tuesday.

The Iraqi planes that have landed in Iran since the weekend include Soviet-made Sukhoi Su-24s, the radio said.

Experts say they have a combat range of up to 1,300 kilometres when loaded with weapons, known for their ability to carry air-to-surface missiles.

Israel had been concerned that the planes could be used to attack the Jewish State.

## 400,000 Gulf war refugees seen

BRUSSELS (R) — The United Nations and other relief bodies are getting ready to cope with a wave of up to 400,000 refugees from Iraq, a top U.N. official said Tuesday. U.N. Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Douglas Stafford said aid agencies were preparing facilities for 100,000 refugees each in four countries neighbouring Iraq. "I hope that by the middle of next week we will have camps, water and food for 35,000 people in Iran, 40,000 in Jordan, 25,000 in Syria and 20,000 in Turkey," Mr. Stafford told a news conference at a seminar on European Community (EC) refugee policy. Sergio Vieira de Mello, external relations director to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), noted however that fewer than 10,000 people, mostly Egyptians, had left Iraq since the U.S.-led coalition began military action on Jan. 17.

## Western airman said killed in air strike

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Tuesday that allied prisoners were hit and one was killed in U.S.-led attacks on Baghdad, where captured airmen reportedly are held as deterrent against attacks.

The Iranian news agency quoted Baghdad Radio as saying that the pilot killed in the attacks Monday was an American. But none of the Iraqi broadcasts monitored in Nicaragua mentioned the nationalities or identities of any of the alleged victims.

Also Tuesday, Baghdad said its forces thrust into Saudi Arabia and engaged troops there in "lightening" battles 15 and 20 kilometres south of border. The military command reported that "large numbers of the bastards" were killed.

U.S. military sources said allied warplanes blasted an Iraqi military convoy that was spotted moving across the open desert Monday night. They reported 24 Iraqi vehicles, including tanks, destroyed.

The Iraqis also said the ground action occurred Monday night and it appeared that the reports were deterrent accounts of the same incident.

Reporting on the POW who reportedly was killed by his own side, the official media said:

"As part of the crimes being committed by the U.S. administration and its Atlantic allies against steadfast Iraq and the residential areas in its towns and the economic installations, the enemy fired three missiles simultaneously with a number of air raids against Baghdad last night."

"One of the raids hit one of the departments of the Ministry of Industry, killing one of the captured foreign pilots, who had been evacuated to that department."

"We declare to the world public that the United States bears the results of these ugly crimes committed against our citizens and the prisoner pilots whom Iraq is hosting."

"We have repeatedly warned against attacking residential and civilian targets, not only out of our interest in protecting the lives of our citizens, but also to protect the lives of those who have been sent by the barbarism of (U.S. President George) Bush and the other governments that are taking part in the aggression against our country."

"Let the voices of peace advocates, good people, and the families of the prisoners rise up to denounce Bush's crimes and this particular crime, which demonstrates the lack of ethical and humanitarian responsibility of U.S. statesmen."

The Iraqi News Agency earlier said it learned that "numbers" of war

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## Chevenement quits in protest over war

PARIS (Agencies) — Embattled French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, under fire for not taking a strong stand on the Gulf war, resigned Tuesday, saying the fighting risked compromising United Nations' objectives.

Mr. Chevenement, who had served in the post since 1988, was immediately replaced by Interior Minister Pierre Joxe, presidential spokesman Hubert Vedrine said.

The defence minister's resignation appeared inevitable, but he had been widely expected to stay on until the Gulf fighting ended.

The resignation came hours after French warplanes carried out two bombing raids in Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr. Chevenement, known for speaking his mind, had sparked increasing criticism because of what was perceived as his weak position towards the Gulf war.

Less than a week into the war, Mr. Chevenement said French involvement would be limited to attacking targets in Kuwait, provoking charges that France was not committed to the multinational military effort against Iraq.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Chevenement wrote: "A certain idea of the republic leads me to ask you to discharge me of the functions for which it was an honour for me to carry out."

But he repeated his belief that France's mission should be the liberation of Kuwait, as specified by United Nations Security Council resolutions, and not the

destruction of Iraq. "I add that the logic of war every day risks distancing us from the objectives fixed by the United Nations," he wrote.

Chevenement abruptly cancelled a news conference he had planned for Tuesday morning because of "overbearing necessities," the Defence Ministry had announced earlier.

The 51-year-old Socialist politician leads a dovish faction among Socialist legislators, six of whom came out against French military engagement in the Gulf just before the start of the war.

As criticism mounted, President Francois Mitterrand moved quickly to stand by his old friend, but he also made clear that French forces could attack targets in Iraq, as they did for the first time last Thursday.

Mr. Chevenement's role as a founding member of the Franco-Iraqi Friendship Society led critics to charge that his ties to Iraq conflicted with French interests and that he represented a threat to French unity. Several lawmakers had demanded that he resign.

Before resigning, Mr. Chevenement had tried to parry the criticism. "At a moment when our soldiers are engaged, France must not make war with itself," he had said.

Alain Juppé, secretary-general of the conservative opposition party Rally for the Republic, said Mr. Chevenement's resignation was entirely in order.

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## Gulf oil slick — pollution problem of the century

By Mariam M. Shahin with agency dispatches

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS and anti-pollution teams from all over the world are working round-the-clock to protect fresh water supplies for the Gulf states from being polluted by two oil slicks which could be this century's worst.

Threatening to destroy both nature and man the slicks, the larger of which began at the Al Ahmadi terminal, increased from eight million barrels to 11 million barrels (or 1.7 billion litres) Tuesday, according to Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer.

The first slick, which now covers about 900 square kilometres and the soot which the burning of part of the oil creates is likely to disturb the

equilibrium of all the air, water and land that it touches.

The smaller slick, which originated from shell-shattered storage tanks at the Saudi town of Khafji close to the Kuwaiti border on Jan. 17, had reached Ra's Tannaqib peninsula just south of Saudi Arabia's Safaniyah field, the world's largest offshore oil field, by Tuesday and was expected to arrive at the port of Jubail Friday.

Environmental experts in Jordan and around the world say that all forms of life possibly as far East as Asia and maybe even further could be affected by the slick and the consequences of an oil blaze.

"If current meteorological conditions prevail then the north-east winds could literally blow the soot and smoke far

beyond Iran into Asia, where the polluted air could permanently affect the health of millions of people," said associate professor at the University of Jordan Fuad Hashweh, who has done extensive studies on water pollution.

"Iranians, at al Bushra 320 kilometres away, have already complained of oil-tainted rain drops which resulted from the burning of (Kuwait's) Wafra oil fields," Dr. Hashweh pointed out.

Saudi officials continue to insist that their shores are protected and that calm waters were helping anti-pollution teams which are cleaning the waters, but some environmental experts think differently.

"If the oil flow continues some Saudi desalination plants at Jubail may have to be shut,"

one environmental expert said Tuesday. Riyadh-based sources said: "If oil reaches the plants at the present volume, the anti-pollution teams won't be able to handle the situation with booms."

The desalination plants at Jubail supply Riyadh with three-quarters of its drinking water. Saudi Arabia produces 500 million gallons of water per day from desalination plants.

Abdul Rahman Al Gain, head of the Saudi Environmental Protection Agency, recently told reporters that his country had taken care to protect water intake channels at industrial facilities along the Saudi coast. But some environmental experts are uncertain as to whether enough precautions can possibly be taken

to quell an oil flow of this magnitude.

Mr. Gain told reporters in Riyadh that Saudi Arabia was against using chemical dispersants because they were harmful to the environment. He made no comment about the bombing Saturday of outlet pipes at oil storage tanks in Al Ahmadi by American F-111 bombers and the possible "environmental harm" of such bombings.

Qatar and the UAE, fearing that the oil spill will affect their waters, have clean-up squads on alert, but officials there say that they are confident that drinking water will not be affected. Some experts say that at the moment the slick would follow currents off the Iranian shore.

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# Iraq says 320 killed, 400 wounded in 6 days

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq has said that the United States and its allies in the Gulf coalition killed more than 320 people and wounded nearly 400 others in the first six days of bombing.

Iraq, in a letter to the United Nations, said the allies attacked civilian, economic and religious targets.

The highest number of civilian casualties occurred on Jan. 21 when 144 people allegedly were killed and 24 wounded in the bombing of residential neighbourhoods in the sacred Shiite Muslim cities of Najaf and Kufa about 140 kilometres south of Baghdad, the letter said.

Iraqi diplomats said the numbers represented only a small fraction of the total casualties, which have not been disclosed. The letter cited 74 attacks which took place from Jan. 17, when the war began, up to Jan. 22.

The United States and its allies said 25,000 sorties have been flown in the bombardment of Iraqi military and strategic targets. They emphasise that strict precautions have been taken to avoid civilian casualties and say that places of worship have not been bombed.

But they acknowledge that some civilian casualties are inevitable and say that some Iraqi military targets are camouflaged as innocuous civilian installations.

Reporters in Baghdad have generally said that few civilian areas suffered major damage.

The letter, from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar blames him personally as well as the Security Council, which authorised an attack to expel Iraq from Kuwait.

The letter said the raids against "civilian economic, humanitarian, medical, cultural and religious targets" was proof that vengeance was the motive behind the bombing.

The letter said Washington and its allies wanted revenge because of Iraq's independent policies. The accounts indicated that in

the opening days of the war U.S. and allied bombing was most severe in Iraq's Najaf region near Saudi Arabia.

It said that in the biggest single casualty toll on Jan. 21, four days after the bombing started, 130 civilians were killed in Najaf, one of the largest Iraqi towns close to the Saudi border.

"Agglomerations (groups) of nomadic bedouin bombed in the Huwaymal area near Umm Tayyarah; 20 killed including 12 children and five women," a report from the Najaf region said. The letter indicated that although bombing caused damage in Baghdad, casualties were not as high in the capital as some military experts forecast.

It listed a total of only eight civilians killed and 12 wounded in the first two days of the bombing of Baghdad.

Sites in the capital that were damaged by the bombing included the country's main museum with valuable Babylonian archaeological artifacts, the city's major sports stadium, a large post office, several factories, a main downtown avenue and a restaurant.

The letter said the allied air forces used "missiles," "cluster bombs," "time-delay bombs" and "spherical bombs."

Many of the reports mentioned women and children killed in the raids. U.S. and allied statements have said that only military sites were the targets of bombing.

"Residential centres bombed in the Jubail area... four children and two women killed, 16 other citizens wounded including six women and five children," the letter said in describing an attack east of Baghdad near the Iranian border.

It said not even trains were safe near the Iranian border.

Air attack on a train travelling from Baghdad to Basra; three killed and 21 wounded," another entry said.

Parts of the letter were released in Baghdad Sunday holding Mr. Perez de Cuellar personally "responsible for indiscriminate and deliberate bombing."

The letter harshly criticised the United Nations, saying it was shameful for the world body to condone "these premeditated crimes... committed under the cover provided by resolutions adopted by the Security Council."

It said the most recent resolution on Nov. 29 authorising the use of force and approved by 12 nations, came about because of "pressure, blackmail and bribery" by the United States.

A spokesman for Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he would comment when it was "appropriate."

The Iraqi letter also says the following attacks around Baghdad and in 13 other jurisdictions:

— Twenty-five killed and nine wounded in an attack Jan. 19 in the Nukhaimi subdistrict in Anbar governorate in the west near the borders with Syria and Jordan.

— Twenty-two killed and 33 wounded in an attack Jan. 21 on the Dur district in Salahaddin governorate in the heavily populated southern region, damage to 112 homes, 30 vehicles and the Al Abbas mosque.

— Twenty killed, including 12 children and five women in the bombing Jan. 18 of nomadic bedouin groups in the Juyaymal area near Umm Tayyarah in the Najaf governorate southwest of Baghdad.

— Ten killed and 22 wounded in bombing Jan. 19 of a food storage warehouse and flour factory in the Mu'allimin quarter of Qadisiyah governorate south of Baghdad.

— Six killed, 10 wounded in the bombing Jan. 19 of the Iraqi Museum in Baghdad, massive structural damage.

— One killed, 10 wounded in the bombing of a clinic in Baghdad on Jan. 18.

— Bomb damage to historic St. Thomas' Church Jan. 19 in the Ninawa governorate in the far north.

— An infant formula factory bombed Jan. 21 in the Abu Ghurayb area of Anbar governorate in the north-west.

## Rockets rain on Israel's 'security zone'

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Resistance fighters unleashed a barrage of surface-to-surface rockets Tuesday against the Israeli-controlled sector of South Lebanon, but no casualties were reported, police said.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations said "dozens" of Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets exploded in various sectors of the zone at dawn.

"There exact targets could not be determined," the police spokesman said.

A security source in South Lebanon, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "at least 10 Katyushas exploded in the security zone."

The Nationalist Resistance Front, an alliance of Lebanese and Palestinian guerrilla factions, claimed responsibility for the attack saying it was aimed at northern Israeli settlements.

The short statement did not link the attack to the war in the Gulf between Iraq and the allied forces.

Palestinian guerrilla factions have been threatening to escalate attacks against Israel in support of Iraq and in retaliation for stepped up Israeli restrictions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel carved out the 1,100-square-kilometre "security zone" when it withdrew the bulk of its army from South Lebanon in the summer of 1985, ending a three-year occupation of the region.

The zone, which extends from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the foothills of Mount Hermon in the east, serves as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla infiltrations into northern Israel.

The zone is patrolled by some 1,000 Israeli troops and 3,000 allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army.

Tuesday's attack was the most intense rocket barrage at the area in five years Israel military officials said, and followed a seventh Iraqi Scud missile attack at Israel Tuesday.

Uri Lubrani, a defence ministry adviser on Lebanon, said Israel suspected the shooting could be the work of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a show of support for Iraq.

"There is a partnership of destiny between Saddam Hussein and (PLO leader) Yasser Arafat. In this partnership every side is asked to do what he can for the common effort," Mr. Lubrani said on Israel Radio.

"I have no doubt that Yasser Arafat and his organisation are planning and doing what they can to participate in the struggle in the Gulf. The only way they can do this is by putting pressure on us at the northern border, with what they have," Mr. Lubrani added.

Television said Israelis in the northern town of Metullah said they heard seven explosions nearby across the border which shook their windows.

The army declined to specify the exact location of the hits. It said "dozens of Katyusha rockets were fired overnight towards the eastern sector of the security zone."

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation denied Tuesday that Yasser Arafat ordered attacks on Israel from southern Lebanon.

"The declarations of Zeid Wahbeh only express his own viewpoint," a PLO spokesman in response to remarks by Mr. Wahbeh that Arafat had ordered Katyusha rockets attacks against Israeli targets.

The spokesman said the PLO chairman had given no instructions to open a front against Israel from Lebanon.

## Bonn pledges \$5.5b to Gulf war effort

BONN (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised Washington an extra \$5.5 billion for Gulf war costs on Tuesday, and ordered rocket launchers to Turkey along with 380 troops to operate them.

Mr. Kohl said he and U.S. President George Bush agreed on the \$5.5 billion cash figure in a telephone conversation Monday night. That raises Germany's Gulf expenditures to \$9 billion in money and material.

Mr. Kohl also said Germany will consider financial help for

Britain. British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd is to travel to Bonn on Wednesday.

"The allies in the Gulf have taken on the task of asserting international law for the United Nations and the world community," Mr. Kohl told reporters.

"I cannot expect taxpayers in America, or in other countries, to shoulder this burden by themselves."

Mr. Kohl also said financial assistance to the Soviet Union and to Eastern Europe's budding

democracies must be increased.

He admonished wealthy Western nations not to "forget the people of Eastern Europe. For me that would be unacceptable."

The government said it would send 16 Roland and nine Hawk anti-aircraft launchers to help protect Turkey, a NATO ally, from Iraq. A total of 580 German troops will accompany the systems to operate them.

Germany has not committed any ground troops to the anti-Iraq efforts but has sent a squad-

ron of 18 jets to Turkey, at Turkey's request, to bolster its air defence in case of an Iraqi attack.

About 220 support personnel are stationed with the German jets in Turkey.

Germany says its constitution, which bars deployment of German troops to any country that isn't a NATO member, means it can't send soldiers to the Gulf.

Kohl said he was sending the anti-aircraft units to prove his nation's reliability and gratitude for NATO's protection

## Egyptian journalists stage pro-Iraq sit-in

CAIRO (AP) — About 100 Egyptian journalists Tuesday staged a sit-in against the U.S. allied forces' bombardment of Iraq and demanded that Egypt withdraw its 36,000 troops from Saudi Arabia.

The meeting, representing only a fraction of nearly 4,000 members of the Egyptian Journalists Syndicate, reflected a budding movement of dissent to President Hosni Mubarak's anti-Iraq policies in the Gulf war.

"I'm here mainly to say that there is a split in the Egyptian streets which is what the government insists on denying," said Omayma Kamal, a journalist with the government's Akhbar Yom newspaper.

"At the beginning, we might have been against the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, but now we feel

more strongly about 28 countries fighting one Arab country."

The Egyptian troops are with the anti-Iraq coalition.

Mohammad Owda of the government magazine Rose Al Youssef and the pro-Moscow Al Ahali newspaper accused the United States of trying to destroy Iraq and its president, Saddam Hussein.

"This is not a war," he said. "These are avenging, exterminating air raids, and no mistake that Iraq could have made deserves this."

"I think there was sympathy in Egypt for the Iraqi people from the first day of the bombardment, but it is growing every day because of the U.S. brutality."

"There is increasing support for Iraq on the streets," agreed Nagwan Abdul Latif of the state-

owned magazine Al Mussawar.

"The proof is that the government has postponed the reopening of schools and universities because they are afraid of demonstrations."

Karem Mahmoud, whose newspaper Al Shaab is published by an opposition socialist party, said the sit-in also was to protest the one-sided portrayal of the war in state-owned newspapers.

President Mubarak has been at the forefront of Arab opposition to Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Early in the occupation of Kuwait, virtually all Egyptians strongly supported Mr. Mubarak's policies.

But since the U.S.-led allied coalition began the bombing of Iraq on Jan. 17, a small but noticeable split has developed in the public consensus.

The Muslim brotherhood, one of Egypt's largest opposition groups, demanded an Egyptian troop withdrawal and an end to the bombardment. Other opposition political parties and trade and professional unions also have expressed anger at the continued attacks on Iraq.

The journalists planned a five-hour sit-in at the downtown headquarters of the Egyptian Journalists Syndicate. Halfway through it, only about 100 members had appeared.

They signed petitions urging an immediate end to the war, the Egyptian army's departure from Saudi Arabia and simultaneous withdrawal by the United States of its troops from Saudi Arabia and Iraq of its forces from Kuwait.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraqi Kurds cross into Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Thirty-one Iraqi Kurds have crossed into Syria, the first group of refugees to cross the border since the Gulf crisis, a U.N. official said Tuesday. The official, Michael Schulenburg, said 24 children, six women and one man crossed Monday night from the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, which is about 150 kilometres from the border. They have been settled at camps on the outskirts of Al-Hol village, 500 kilometres northeast of Damascus. Mr. Schulenburg, U.N. emergency coordinator for Syria, said the refugees were tired but no major health problems have been reported. He added that more refugees were expected. The United Nations, in cooperation with the Syrian government, has set up a refugee camp at Al-Hol, mainly for Iraqis fleeing the war. Some 300 tents are already in place.

### Number of Americans leaving S. Arabia declines

WASHINGTON (R) — The number of American citizens evacuating Saudi Arabia by paying for flights on U.S. military aircraft out of the war zone has slowed markedly, the State Department said Tuesday. Nearly 1,300 American citizens and other foreign nationals and their families had been evacuated through Monday on 26 flights to Europe made available to civilians since the Gulf war began, a spokesman told Reuters. The evacuees included 61 government employees and their dependants who left on Sunday on a military air command flight from Riyadh, he said. "Demand for seats on returning military aircraft has declined significantly," the State Department spokesman said. He said 20 people had signed up to fly out of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday and added: "Additional flights scheduled throughout this week are expected to accommodate the remaining demand." A U.S. diplomatic source in Saudi Arabia told Reuters that an estimated 400 Americans remained in the Kingdom's sprawling Eastern Province that adjoins Kuwait and is the major base for the allied military force fighting Iraq. That compares with about 7,000 Americans who lived in the province when Iraq invaded Kuwait last August, the source said.

### Saudi envoy to intervene on behalf of Sudanese

KHARTOUM (R) — The Saudi Arabian ambassador in Khartoum has promised to ask his government to reconsider a decision to ban Sudanese from entering the kingdom, the official Sudan News Agency SUNA said Tuesday. Sudan and Saudi Arabia have been at odds over the Gulf war. Sudan has been sympathetic to Iraq while Saudi Arabia is active in the war to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. SUNA said Minister of State for Expatriates Affairs Al Saeed Mahjoub met the Saudi envoy Monday and discussed the conditions of Sudanese living in the kingdom.

### Blood for Iraqi war wounded from Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Pakistanis are rushing to donate blood to help Iraq treat its war wounded and the first 200 bottles are now ready to be despatched, a medical trust said Tuesday. Sattar Edhi, founder of the Edhi trust, said the blood was essentially for wounded civilians. "We have nothing to do with war," he said. "We wish peace all over the world. We work for humanity." More than 250 people, including Arabs, Iraqi diplomats and Pakistani students, stood in a long queue in Karachi Monday to donate blood for Iraq, a trust spokesman said. He said a blood donation centre set up in eastern Karachi would work round-the-clock because of a rush of donors. Although the government supports the U.S.-led allies, Pakistan has seen daily pro-Iraqi demonstrations since the Gulf war began 12 days ago.

### 500 Filipinos to leave Israel

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines will evacuate some 500 Filipino workers from Israel following a series of Iraqi missile attacks there, an official said Tuesday. The Foreign Affairs Department official,

who requested anonymity, said the Filipinos would be ferried to Cyprus and then flown to Manila on chartered flights. The Department of Labour said there are about 2,000 Filipinos in Israel, most of them working as domestic helpers. The 500 Filipinos who plan to leave Israel come from the Tel Aviv area, a prime Iraqi missile target. The Philippine embassy in Tel Aviv reported that the Filipinos there have remained calm "but many are waiting to go home," the Foreign Affairs Department said.

### Iran to mass produce long-range missiles

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, neutral in the war between Iraq and U.S.-led allies over Kuwait, said Tuesday it would start mass producing long-range, ground-to-ground missiles from next week. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted a spokesman for the defence and armed forces logistics ministry as saying the missiles would have "high destructive power." It gave no other details. Iran's Defence Industries Organisation, affiliated to the ministry, developed several types of short-range missiles during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, including one with a range of 200 kilometres manufactured in the last months of the conflict. Three other types with shorter range — called Oqab (Eagle), Shahin-1 (Falcon-1) and Shahin-2 — were used against Iraqi forces during the war. Iran is also armed with Soviet-made Scud missiles, a modified version of which has been used by Iraq for attacks on Israeli and Saudi Arabian cities.

### Bahrain ruler returns home after surgery

BAHRAIN (R) — The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, returned home Tuesday after successful heart surgery in the United States. According to a court statement Sheikh Isa, 57, left Bahrain for the United States on Nov. 12 and had a heart surgery at the Cleveland Hospital a week later. The Gulf News Agency said he was met on arrival by his brother, Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, and his son, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa. U.S. officials said the Bahraini ruler, who was taken to hospital in Bahrain Oct. 15, had a mild heart attack.

### Belgians reject offensive role in Gulf

BRUSSELS (R) — Most Belgians are against their country playing an offensive role in the Gulf war, according to an opinion poll published in two national newspapers Tuesday. In an apparent reflection of government policy, 61 per cent of 992 people questioned over the weekend did not think Belgium should play an offensive role. The poll was published in La Dernière Heure and Het Laatste Nieuws. The government has said Belgium's role in the Gulf war is purely defensive. Brussels has sent two minesweepers to the region and 18 Mirage fighters to defend NATO ally Turkey's border with Iraq.

### Abu Nidal might have been patient in Belgium

BRUSSELS (R) — The administrative director of a Brussels hospital said Monday he could not rule out that Palestinian guerrilla leader Abu Nidal had been a patient there. Commenting on a report in the latest issue of the Belgian weekly Le Vif l'Express, Professor Stephane Lejeune of Erasmus University Hospital said: "I would be surprised if it were true, but it is not at all impossible." The magazine said European secret services had received reports that Abu Nidal had been treated at the hospital for heart problems several times, under a false name. The magazine quoted sources as saying a doctor at the hospital, Joseph Wybran, who was murdered on Oct. 3, 1989, might have been killed because he recognised Abu Nidal, head of the Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC). Mr. Wybran was president of the coordination committee of Jewish organisations in Belgium. The Belgian government has been intensely embarrassed by a visit to Brussels earlier this month, at the invitation of the foreign ministry, of senior FRC official Walid Khaleel.

## PNC deputy speaker said killed

AMMAN (AP) — Refiq Shafie Kiblawi, the assistant deputy speaker of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), was assassinated in Kuwait Tuesday, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official reported.

Salim Zaanoun, the PNC's deputy speaker, said Mr. Kiblawi was shot as he was leaving his house in Kuwait by gunmen who fled in a Volkswagen car.

Mr. Zaanoun said there was no immediate indication who was responsible for the attack against his deputy in the PNC.

It was the second assassination of top Palestinian leaders this month.

On Jan. 16, a renegade bodyguard in Tunis killed Salah Khafiz, the second in command to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, and Hayel Abdul Hamid, the PLO's security chief.

Mr. Zaanoun also said he would visit Baghdad next weekend to coordinate with the Iraqi parliament on rallying support for Iraq in the war launched by the U.S.-led multinational force on Jan. 17.

Mr. Zaanoun said the PNC and the Iraqi parliament will join forces during the pan-Arab parliamentary meeting in Algiers on Feb. 1.

He added that the parliamentary meeting will be discussing Gulf developments, and the PNC and Iraqi delegations will try to persuade parliamentarians from those Arab states participating in the multinational force to withdraw their troops.

## Kuwait bristles with guns, Iraqis well dug in — refugee

By Paul Holmes  
Reuters

RUWEISHED — Kuwait is bristling with anti-aircraft guns and Iraqi soldiers there were well entrenched in preparation for an allied attack, a Jordanian who left the emirate last week said Tuesday.

"Right now, everything has come to a standstill in Kuwait. The (Iraqi) army is distributing food and flour and meat from vans," 54-year-old civil servant Mahmoud Hassan said at this Jordanian border post.

He said he doubted whether the allies could win a ground war, "the Iraqis are so well entrenched."

Jordanian Nidal Kafiyah, a 27-year-old accountant who also left Kuwait last week, said food and water were still available there but petrol for civilians was running low.

He said allied air attacks had hit mainly military installations, but he believed there might have been civilian casualties because Kuwait City was so small.

Military installations and Iraqi forces in Kuwait had come under repeated attack since the Gulf war broke out on Jan. 17.

Mr. Hassan and Mr. Kafiyah were among a trickle of refugees who crossed into Jordan from Iraq Tuesday.

Some 500 Egyptians remain

trapped in the freezing desert without proper food or shelter on the Iraqi side. Iraq has insisted they return to Baghdad for exit visas, but travellers crossing the frontier said they lacked money or petrol to reach the Iraqi capital.

Iraq has allowed refugees of other nationalities to cross the border without exit visas. Border officials said about 800 refugees, most of them Sudanese, had spent the night at a Red Cross transit camp near Ruweished. Buses would ferry them to another camp at Azraq, 80 km northeast of Amman, to await air transport.

Mr. Hassan said he was among 24 people, mainly Jordanians, injured Sunday when the bus they were travelling in overturned into a ditch during an allied air raid on the road to the border through western Iraq.

He said they were taken to a hospital at Al Rutbah, a small desert town about 120 km from the border.

"We saw a ball of fire in the distance and then we got hit," he said. He had cuts to his hand and chest.

A number of travellers have reported allied attacks on the highway between Rutbah and the Iraqi border post at Treibee. Mr. Hassan said the allies appeared to be aiming at bridges.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### PRAYER TIMES

05:57 ..... Fajr  
06:27 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:49 ..... Dhuh  
14:46 ..... 'Asr  
17:11 ..... Maghreb  
19:39 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terzentsa Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
The country will be affected by a depression accompanied by a cold front. Therefore, it will be cloudy and rainy and a drop in temperatures will take place.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	3 / 10
Aqaba	8 / 18
Deserts	2 / 11
Jordan Valley	9 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'er ..... 791405  
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih ..... 679009  
Dr. Wa'el Dumati ..... 774800  
Dr. Mohamad Al Shawish ..... 658878  
Firas Pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 776336  
Al Azema pharmacy ..... 637055

Nairookh pharmacy ..... 625672  
Al Salama pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yasoon pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Lawrence Bader ..... (—)  
Al Sharaa' pharmacy ..... (273825)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Maimoun Hanna ..... (—)  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 751212  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 846390

Public Security Department ..... 63021  
Hotel Complaints ..... 638800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality

Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone

Repairs:  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 816151  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khafid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644281/6  
Abdel Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644412/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 848845  
Al-Mushter Hospital ..... 667278  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/57  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Jalal, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Badri, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marja ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602403/30  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital



## Ministry plans campaign on pockets of poverty

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Social Development will shortly embark on measures to rid the streets of beggars and help those who are really in need by offering them facilities to start a new life, according to Social Development Minister Yousef Al Atham.

The minister said that the campaign, which would be carried out in Amman and other towns in cooperation with the Public Security Department, entails collecting the beggars and homeless people as a first step to be followed by a classification programme with the help of specialists and social workers.

The minister said that each individual case will be studied alone to find out about whether the beggars can be rehabilitated and given a chance to earn their own living or whether they require continued assistance on a permanent basis because they are really unable to work. The Ministry of Social Development also plans to appoint special social workers to help the beggars and will instruct the National Aid Fund to provide financial assistance to them.

Those who are able to work will be offered training in a number of fields and, according to the minister, the beggars would receive loans to help them start a business. He said JD 20 to JD 40 a month would be offered specially for widows and orphans, and between JD 70 and JD 100 for emergency situations like accidents resulting in tragedies to families plus a card for free health services at hospitals and health centres.

## Qatanani counters Israeli restrictions on travel to W. Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel is imposing restrictions on Palestinians crossing from Jordan to the occupied Arab territories and the government is lodging a protest with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help restore normal traffic at the bridges across the River Jordan.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs told the Jordan Times that normally 500 to 600 persons were allowed to cross the bridges a day during the winter season but only 50 were now allowed to cross by the Israeli authorities.

So far, the government has contacted the U.N. and the ICRC which replied that the Israelis were taking the measure in view of the blanket curfew imposed on the West Bank because of the Gulf war.

Qatanani argued that as long as the 50 or so people are allowed to cross, how can they make it home under the curfew regulations.

Qatanani said that the government is now formally addressing the concerned organisations, through diplomatic channels, to help the Palestinians, many of whom had fled Kuwait and Iraq, to go home.

He said that in the summer months about 2,000 people a day normally cross the King Hussein Bridge on their way to the West Bank, and 1,200 cross via the Prince Mohammad Bridge.



Ahmad Qatanani

## Intellectuals heighten protests against U.S. France over Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian graduates of French universities and other educational institutions in France have condemned ongoing aggression on Iraq as designed to devastate the Arab country and demanded that France end its involvement in the war.

Representatives of the graduates, who included members of parliament, university professors, doctors, engineers, lawyers, writers and artists, called on the French ambassador to Jordan, Denis Bouchard, and handed him a note of protest demanding that France act immediately to put a stop to the war and to help reinvigorate a dialogue to establish permanent and just peace in the Middle East taking into consideration all resolutions adopted by the United Nations organisations concerning all problems of the region, including the Palestine issue.

In their note, the graduates said that the aggression seems aimed at destroying Iraq under the pretext of applying U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Any future negotiations to end the conflict should include the question of banning and removing all nuclear and chemical weapons from all the countries of the region including Israel, whose arsenal of nuclear weapons constitutes the gravest danger to the peoples of the region, said the note.

In their note to the ambassador, to be relayed to the French government, the graduates defined the depth of the Arab-Arab friendship ties and pressed hope that France would not remain involved in the ill war.

The note voiced hope that it would resume its diplomatic role to find a peaceful solution to the problem and to add its weight to those of European co-loving groups.

The Jordanian Writers Association (JWA), Monday issued a statement describing the continued air raids on Iraq as aimed at destroying all the Iraqi people's achievements in conformity with the aims and aspirations of the Zionist and imperialist designs.

The Americans who are bragging about introducing a new world order are now intent on changing the map of the Middle East with the purpose of consolidating the U.S. hold over the natural resources and the oil wealth in the region and of giving Israel domination over the Arab Nation's destiny, said the statement.

The statement affirmed that it was not reasonable or acceptable to see Iraq facing this onslaught by itself. The association urged all Arab states to help Iraq face the aggression because it was a war between the Zionist and the imperialists on one hand and the Arab people on the other.

The association also called on various professional groupings in Jordan and the Arab World to actively join in the efforts to defend Iraq specially in the media and information services.

Another organisation, the National Association of Children's Education in Jordan, issued a statement denouncing the aggression on Iraq as a war of genocide against the Iraqi children who were deprived of food and medicine and exposed to constant horror because of the air raids.

The statement appealed to nations of the world and peace organisations to help or provide protection to these children.

In Irbid, Yarmouk University students Monday staged a demonstration in a show of protest against the aggression on Iraq. A number of speakers, who addressed the marchers, called on Arab and Islamic countries to help Iraq confront the aggressors.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amra Forum Hotel has offered to shelter over 100 neighboring families. In a circular sent to the families, the hotel said it has established an underground shelter that would accommodate 300 people.

The hotel added that the shelter was supplied with blankets, food and beverages as well as first aid kits which would suffice for at least 10 months.

The Amra Forum Hotel, which is a 100 per cent government-owned and is managed by Inter-Continental Hotels Group advised all concerned that the shelter and all other facilities would be free of charge, in case any emergency arises.

## Amra Hotel provides shelter

## Minister of youth outlines duties of clubs, centres

ZARQA (Petra) — Culture and Youth Minister Khalid Al Karaki Tuesday stressed the role of youth as a basic backup for the armed forces in defending the homeland.

In a meeting with heads of sports and youth clubs in Zarqa governorate, Karaki called for countering rumours and for avoiding stockpiling of food supplies that harm the national economy and damage the people's interests.

The minister said that the ministry was currently cooperating with the Ministry of Health, and the Civil Defence Department to supply clubs and youth centres with the necessary equipment to face any emergency.

Karaki pointed out that the ministry would distribute the clubs' allocations according to their functions and achievements. He noted that the ministry has allocated JD 350,000 for clubs and centres.

The minister underlined the importance of merging clubs and centres to highlight and enhance their activities. The minister said his ministry was currently supervising 246 clubs and 41 youth centres.

The minister heard a briefing by Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Shobaki on the situation of clubs, their requirements and the need to establish a sport city in Zarqa.

A number of deputies attending the meeting, reviewed the problems facing clubs, including conditions governing elections and membership.

## Government replies to deputies' queries today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament is due to convene Wednesday evening in the presence of Prime Minister Moudar Badran and cabinet members to hear government replies to queries presented by deputies on a host of issues related to agriculture and services.

A statement here said that the water strategy in Jordan would come under scrutiny and amendments to a number of laws will be debated.

According to another parliament statement, the House's National Bloc Tuesday elected Abdullah Ensoor to serve as the bloc's official spokesman on all matters. The bloc now groups Qassem Obeidat and Abdul Karim Al Kabarti who had resigned from the government, but continue to serve as parliament members.

A new member to the bloc is Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh who had also served previously as minister of youth.



A daily Sawt Al Shaab Tuesday published the above photocopy of a U.S. dollar carrying Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's photo in a gesture of wide American public support for the Iraqi President in his defensive war against the American-led alliance. The photocopy was sent to Jordan by mail.

## 'Bush is violating God's law'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Ellen Rosser, an American peace activist who has been on a hunger strike since Jan. 17, says she is continuing the fast in protest against the U.S. aggression on Iraq.

Dr. Rosser from the World Peace Now group in the United States was on her way to Iraq when the war started.

Following is a statement Dr. Rosser issued Tuesday, the first to be released to the press since she started the hunger strike.

I have been fasting — water only — since the outbreak of war on Thursday to protest my government's choosing to kill rather than to negotiate. Killing is a totally unnatural behaviour — 99.8 per cent of humankind has never done it — and it is contrary to international law and more importantly to God's law.

The U.N. Charter specifies that in the event of conflict, first negotiation, mediation, conciliation and the World Court shall be resorted to, thus economic embargo, and finally, as a last resort, the nations can unite for force.

However, the last item is in conflict with the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which specifies that "no one shall be

arbitrarily deprived of his life." War deprives children, women and men of their lives — illegally. Moreover George Bush stated several times that he would not negotiate with Saddam. Thus he violated the procedures established in the U.N. charter.

Therefore he is guilty of setting a terrible example for the rest of the world — kill, don't negotiate, that is, he is guilty of starting an illegal and totally unnecessary war. And the U.N. was created "to prevent the scourge of war," not to start wars.

More importantly, Bush is violating God's law, which is: Do not kill. Love the other as yourself. Since God created us and understands everything about us, he warns us not to do the things that are harmful for us.

For example, when individual leaders decide to subject their people to the horrors of war, they not only cause suffering to their people in the war itself, they also cause a great increase in crime in their nation afterwards.

For example, after World War I in the United States, there was a 14 per cent increase in murder, 33 per cent increase in rape and 86 per cent increase in armed robbery, and many of those convicted of the crimes were returned servicemen. Why? Because one cannot teach people to violate their most basic morality — not to kill other humans — without that causing some of them to unleash violence against their own people subsequently.

God the omniscient understands all these things and more and tells us: Do not kill; Love the other as yourself; Seek Peace.

There is not only danger to humankind, but also to the environment, for if the oil wells in Kuwait are set on fire, they could burn for thirty years and the resultant huge black cloud of hydrocarbons would cool the earth's atmosphere in the short term but contribute to the greenhouse global-warming effect in the long term, would cause crop failures from the cooling and from contamination of the soil with acid rain, would pollute much of the water, and would change the weather patterns, probably causing droughts in India and Pakistan.

This ecological disaster would resemble in some ways the nuclear winter that an atomic war would create. The nations in the Gulf, therefore, need to stop the war immediately and prevent this disaster as well as save the lives of children, women and men that God loves and has always told us not to kill.

## Saudi, Jordanian communists expose conspiracy on Arabs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Saudi Arabian Communist Party has condemned the ongoing U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and said that the United States was trying to impose its domination on the Arabs and to take control of their oil wealth.

The American-led aggression on Iraq is not being waged for liberating Kuwait or protecting Saudi Arabia but rather to impose colonial will on the Arab Nation in a manner that would ensure continued American hegemony on the Arab World, said a party statement.

The statement said that the Arab people of Iraq and Saudi Arabia as well as the rest of the Arab Gulf states were now exposed to serious danger as a result of the devastating war being waged on Iraq.

The statement said that the American colonialists were now implementing their designs after

deliberately aborting attempts to reach a political settlement to the Gulf crisis.

It said that there can be no alternative but to mobilise all efforts and resources to abort such designs which were detrimental to the Arab Nation and its future generations.

The statement proposed a four-point scheme the first of which calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and, as result, an end to the air raids on Iraq. The second point calls for a search for a peaceful settlement to the conflict by ensuring Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, so that the Kuwaiti people can determine their own future. The withdrawal is envisaged as simultaneous with a withdrawal of American troops from the region. The third point stresses dealing with all issues in the region on equal footing and by the same criteria including the Palestine

## Hundreds of evacuees cross into Jordan after Iraq opened border

AMMAN (J.T.) — The reopening of the Iraq-Jordan border Sunday enabled hundreds of evacuees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait to arrive at the Ruwished border post.

According to the head of the Evacuees Affairs Committee, Salameh Hammad, a total of 15,337 people have crossed into Jordan from the start of the outbreak of hostilities on Jan. 17 until Tuesday.

Hammad was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the evacuees were being distributed to a number of camps in Jordan prior to their repatriation according to arrangements worked out by the committee in cooperation with the concerned governments and international organisations.

Hammad noted that the evacuees include Sudanese, Indians, Vietnamese, Yemenis, Egyptians, Thais, Bangalis and Pakistanis. He said that they were housed at Azraq, Andalus and Ruwished camps and at Aqaba.

A total of 854 evacuees of various nationalities arrived at Ruwished Tuesday and more are expected to come in the coming days, said Hammad. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) estimated the stream of people who would be converging on Ruwished in few days at between 5,000 and 10,000.

## Syria lifts restrictions on border

AMMAN (R) — Damascus lifted restrictions Tuesday on the entry of Jordanians into Syria, a senior Jordanian government official said.

"They are letting in everyone," he told Reuters. "There has been a total shift in their attitude and we hope things will remain like today."

Border sources Monday said nine out of 10 Jordanians trying to cross into Syria through the border post of Dara' were turned back without reason following similar problems Sunday. Freight was not affected.

## Queen inspects camp

Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visited the Azraq 1 camp, where Her Majesty toured its facilities and was briefed on the relief services offered to the evacuees. The Queen also talked to many of the evacuees, the majority of whom are Sudanese and other Asian nationals, and inquired about their needs.

Azraq 1 camp is administered by the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), in cooperation with the League of International Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

Accompanying Her Majesty on the visit was Mr. Salameh Hammad, Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior and the Head of the Higher Committee for the Welfare of Evacuees and Mr. Mohammad Al Shobaki, governor of Zarqa.



Indians and Yemenis. It said in a statement that IOM arranged for 580 Vietnamese to leave Egypt aboard two planes provided by the Japanese government. The Japanese planes would operate four flights from Cairo to repatriate the rest of the Vietnamese, it said.

As of Tuesday, IOM has arranged for two daily flights over the following five days to repatriate 1,390 Sudanese from Amman to Khartoum.

Another 600 Sudanese have already been repatriated with IOM assistance through Egypt either via Nuweiba on the Sinai coast or via Cairo, the statement noted.

were being made for the repatriation of the evacuees in conjunction with Hammad's committee. In addition, Aebi said, the ICRC has been providing meals and other basic needs to the evacuees who had not yet left the Iraqi border post of Trebil, before their arrival at Ruwished.

Aebi expressed appreciation to the Jordanian authorities for providing facilities to deal with the waves of evacuees in Jordanian camps.

For its part, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said that the stranded evacuee population in Jordan were largely Sudanese, Somalis

## Azar sees fertiliser, phosphate exports picking up this year

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is confident that its phosphate and fertilizer exports will get back on track in 1991 after a sharp decline last year caused mostly by the political upheavals in Eastern Europe and, to a limited extent, by problems in shipping from the port of Aqaba, the director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) said Tuesday.

Wazef Azar also voiced optimism that the company would be able to continue its competitive edge in the international market despite the higher costs involved in bringing in bulk carriers and freighters to the Kingdom's only outlet to the sea at Aqaba.

Mr. Azar noted that the company had reached its export target of 6.5 million tonnes of rock phosphates in 1989 and attributed the decline to 4.9 million tonnes in 1990 to the states of uncertainty and confusion that prevailed in Eastern European states following political changes during the year.

Eastern European states imported 2.3 million tonnes of rock phosphates from Jordan in 1989 and only a fraction of this volume was exported in 1990. However, the increase in the international prices for phosphates and fertilizer products partly compensated for this shortfall.

"We are confident that the slump in our exports to Eastern Europe will be addressed this year," Mr. Azar told the Jordan Times. "We have already resumed our shipments to Poland and Romania and exports to other countries will follow," he said.

In addition, he said, with the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iran and Jordan, the JPMC also plans to sell 500,000 tonnes of rock phosphates and 200,000 tonnes of fertilisers to Iran.

The JPMC turnover for the year 1990 was JD 235 million (\$355 million) — compared with \$434 million in 1989 — representing 4.9 million tonnes of rock phosphates, 600,000 tonnes of diammonia phosphate, 15,000 tonnes of aluminium fluoride and 20,000 tonnes of 100 per cent phosphoric acid.

This year's target is: 6.5 million tonnes of rock phosphates, 600,000 tonnes of diammonia phosphate, 16,000 tonnes of aluminium fluoride and 30,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid, according to Mr. Azar.

The company made a net profit of \$160 million in 1989, Mr. Azar said. The final accounts for the year 1990 were being audited, he added in reply to a question of last year's profits.

Mr. Azar declined to attach any figure in dollar terms to the envisaged exports.

"They all depend on the destination, means of transport and packing — whether bulk or in bags — as well as international prices," he said. However, he indicated that the turnover was expected to be around \$450 million.

India remains the largest importer of these items from Jordan. It bought 1.75 million tonnes of rock phosphates and 400,000 tonnes diammonia phosphate from Jordan in 1990.

Apart from India, Jordan's present export markets include Turkey, China, Japan, Taiwan, Pakistan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Greece, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Azar conceded that the problems posed by the fact naval blockade at Aqaba imposed by the multinational naval forces enforcing the trade embargo on Iraq were impeding Jordan's exports. But he expressed confidence that the Kingdom would be able to meet its export commitments despite the higher insurance rate for vessels which in turn increases the freight costs.

"About two-thirds of our customers send their own vessels to pick up the shipments," he said. "We share higher freight and insurance costs with them," he explained. "Even with the higher costs, we remain to be the cheapest supplier in the market of phosphates," he added.

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## Straight man quits

WHAT WAS supposed to happen six months ago finally happened yesterday. French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement resigned his job in a climax to his thinly-veiled conflict with President François Mitterrand over the Gulf crisis.

In French politics, when a minister insists, as Chevènement has done over the past half year, that he would never resign nor even think of doing so, it usually means that that minister would step down and soon. Every denial of disagreement with Mitterrand by Chevènement sounded like a reluctantly executed duty, since it was always contradicted by statements French leaders made afterwards.

Since 1984, Chevènement has been a founding member of the Iraq-French Friendship Association. Under pressure from his government over the Gulf crisis, he consistently declared that his membership was purely theoretical, even though he would not quit the association.

The troubles between the French president and his minister surfaced on Aug. 21, when a high government official, who nobody doubted was Chevènement himself, declared to the French news agency that he was "deeply worried by a possible attack against Iraq." From that time on, statements by both Mitterrand and Chevènement could not but confirm the rift between the two. In the early days of September the minister told French radio that "one should not let one's self be pushed forward by irresponsible ideas," adding that a shooting war in the Gulf would entail unacceptable heavy loss of life.

Soon afterwards, the president, as if to muzzle the minister, came out in the open to say that he himself made the military decisions, and the spokesman for foreign affairs was his good friend Roland Dumas, in effect ignoring Chevènement's role in the whole conflict.

Since then, the relationship between the two men became tense. Chevènement has always been one of the very few leaders of Mitterrand's Socialist Party who did not shrink from saying his mind just for the sake of keeping his job. Furthermore, he is one of those well-known French nationalists who fought against both going too far towards European unification and allegiance to the U.S., especially in defence matters. As the rightist president of the French senate's defence committee, Jean Lecauwet, once put it: "Chevènement is the de Gaulle of the Socialist Party." And as such he stood strong for France's independence and strength, regardless of his own political interests, and for keeping good and sound relations with the Arab World as a whole.

Chevènement might have entertained the hope that he could make his president stick to the French initiative of Sept. 24. He tried hard to stop Mitterrand from progressively switching from his peace strategy to full involvement in war efforts against Iraq. Evidently he failed.

The straw that broke the council's back, however, was that dramatic episode in which the defence minister had insisted that France was fighting to liberate Kuwait and not to destroy Iraq, only to retract his statement later, obviously under immense pressure from the president.

Chevènement was a minister who clearly preferred diplomacy to war, negotiations to fighting. Since France chose to support the wrong option, he could do nothing but resign. He is as straight and honest as straight and honest men come.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN ITS editorial Tuesday Al Ra'i Arabic daily noted that Jordan had been under severe pressure from the U.S.-led coalition to persuade it to step in line with those launching aggression on Iraq. The paper said that once the diplomatic pressure failed, the Kingdom was subjected to an embargo by land, air and sea in an unprecedented manner, but without achieving its objective. The Jordanian people and leadership have bravely withstood all pressures and inhuman treatment, and refused to betray their brothers in Iraq and commit shameful acts like other Arab countries, said the paper. Those who have called for this aggression on Iraq, or those who took part in the attacks on the Iraqi people are bound to face defeat while Jordan and the other honourable Arab states enjoy the appreciation and support of the peace-loving nations for their continued drive to achieve peace in the Gulf, and for shunning any rash actions, the paper continued. Jordan has refused any bribes which went to a number of Arab countries, and has not sold its honour or its sense of national belonging despite the pressures and the unjustified punishment to which it has been subjected, the paper added. It said that the aggressors who have received the first phase of defeat represented in Iraq's steadfastness, are bound to be dealt a final defeat by the steadfast Iraqi armed forces.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily draws a contrast between Iraq's treatment of the foreign nationals held in Iraq just before the outbreak of hostilities and that accorded to Iraqi and Arab nationals by the so-called Western democracies. Jumaa Hamud draws attention to the plight of the Iraqi students, sick persons and businessmen who were in Britain at the start of the war and have been regarded as war prisoners by the British government. Some of these persons have acquired British or American citizenship long before the Gulf crisis erupted, but still they are being treated as war criminals, the writer points out. He says while the Western nationals held in Iraq enjoyed luxurious life in five star hotels, the Iraqis in Britain are being interrogated like prisoners of war and kept in isolation from the rest of society and treated in an inhuman manner. The world public opinion which reacted angrily at the detention of foreign nationals in Baghdad is now totally muted, and does not show any sign of protest against Britain's inhuman treatment of the Iraqi nationals, notes the writer. He says Britain is openly and flagrantly exercising a racist policy in violation of all international laws, giving a clear sign of the so-called new world order orchestrated by the United States, Britain's ally in the aggression on Iraq.

## A test of South's will of independence

By Sadeq Khan

WHAT is happening right now in the Middle East is not exactly a conventional war, but a dress rehearsal of mutual capacity for destruction. American President George Bush may experience sadistic glee at what he describes as "kicking the ass" of another president, Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The brute, paradoxically, is being borne by innocent civilians in so many historic cities and religious centres of the Middle East, by deliberate decision on the part of the American-led coalition and by corresponding retaliation on the part of Iraq. The war machines on both sides have virtually remained disengaged and unharmed. What a mockery of solemn oaths of the Geneva Convention for human rights and civilian protection by the U.N. approved application of force!

The United Nations is supposed to be a vehicle of peace. In all cases of regional outbreak of war in the past, the U.N. called for cessation of hostilities first and withdrawals later. Even during the Korean war which was fought at the instance of a U.N. resolution, not unanimously subscribed to like the current one, cessation of hostilities was preferred after a cessaw of attacks and counterattacks, so as to contain further human losses and destruction and to negotiate withdrawals on both sides behind a neutral line of engagement.

In the Gulf dispute, the United Nations is saying for the first time: withdraw first, unconditionally, and then submit your grievances for negotiation. Why? Because, the raw nerve of U.S. authority has been touched by a Third World power by evicting one of its surrogates. After the debacle of the cold war and dismantling of the iron curtain, the other superpower, Soviet Union, has concealed that the Middle East is an American sphere of influence. Old changing trends of bipolar world alignment by subversive competition and contest of strength between the two superpowers are now replaced by limitations agreed between them of respective zones of security interest and grey areas of dominance by mutual understanding. That is the new world order they are talking about. In this, they consulted and took into confidence to a limited extent the Europeans, Turkey, Japan and China. The Middle East was not consulted, nor were the troubles created by colonial inheritance in the Middle East attended to. In the new context of superpower understanding and acquiescence of Europe, China and the U.S. sought to set its neo-colonial noose firmly around the Middle East region by boosting Israeli power on the Mediterranean side and introducing its own military presence on the Gulf side. Saddam Hussein simply preempted the U.S. design by eliminating active subversion of his economy by the Kuwaiti fifth column within Arab ranks. As the AFP (French News Agency) summary of 1990 on the Gulf crisis notes:

"The Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait was the culmination of a process through which the Iraqi leader transformed his country from an Arab ally of the West (in so far as it was) opposed to the spread of Muslim fundamentalism, into a sworn enemy of the United States."

"The alarm was sounded in February when President Hussein voiced opposition to U.S. plans to maintain a military presence in the Gulf despite the lowering of regional tension after the August 1988 truce between Iran and Iraq."

"The Washington Post newspaper had reported that the U.S. forces were drafting plans for the defence of Saudi oilfields and other Gulf states against unspecified aggression."

"After the end of Gulf war with Iran, the conservative oil-rich monarchies of the region feared Iraq's rising military power. Amid strains with the West over the alleged smuggling to Iraq of nuclear technology and other sophisticated arms, including a 'super-gun', the Iraqi leader sought to assert himself as champion of the Palestinian cause."

The author is a writer from Bangladesh who left Iraq for Jordan on Jan. 21. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

## Baghdad in the eyes of reporters

By Abner Katzman

The Associated Press NICOSIA — Food is still available in Baghdad, but electricity and running water are scarce because of U.S.-led air raids that Iraq says have hit civilian areas, reporters in Iraq have said.

Canadian Press correspondent Leila Deeb, a Jordanian, toured damaged areas Saturday, including a private home reduced to rubble.

Deeb quoted Mohammad Al Habboubi, an engineer who fled Baghdad after the bombing raids started, as saying he rushed outside when he heard bombs falling Jan. 20 in an Najaf, 150 kilometres south of Baghdad.

When he arrived at his cousin's home, Al Habboubi said he found it had received a direct hit. Iraqi officials said 13 of the 14 people inside were among the 35 victims of the attack. The sole survivor, the owner of the house, is still reported to be in a coma.

Deeb reported Thursday that the Adila Khattoun Mosque, in Baghdad's Sarrafieh residential district, had shattered glass all over its carpeted floor, the apparent result of a bomb or missile that landed on shops and restaurants across the street.

The allied command has said it was taking measures to avoid hitting non-military facilities in its bombing campaign.

Canadian press said it did not know whether Deeb's dispatch was subjected to Iraqi censorship.

But correspondent Peter Arnett of the Cable News Network, one of the few remaining foreign correspondents in Baghdad, has said that while his work is overseen by Iraqi authorities, few changes are made in his reports.

Al Najaf was untouched during the eight year Iran-Iraq war. The city is the burial site of Khalifa Ali, brother-in-law of the Prophet Mohammad. Shiite Muslims, who make up

a slight majority in Iraq and the vast majority in Iran, venerate him.

Deeb reported that despite the bombing raids, some shops in Baghdad were still providing food and necessities, but homes and hotels were without electricity.

Arnett said Sunday that he had been told by Iraqi authorities that the city power grid is down, but electricity should be restored to most of the city soon.

(Jordan Times) Reporter Lami Andoni, in an account published Saturday, said that "people were scooping water from the Tigris for washing and cooking."

"Remarkably, food supplies do not yet appear to have been seriously affected," she wrote in Saturday's Jordan Times.

Arnett said Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council announced Saturday that authorities will "begin issuing gasoline, may be 10 gallons every 15 days to all registered

Sadly, that cause now stands abandoned not only by Gulf surrogates of U.S. neo-colonialism, but also by those other Arab countries won over by a carrot and stick combination of heavy bribery and intimidation by the U.S. and its G-7 allies.

Intimidation by demonstration of destructive power, and division by throwing of scraps of favour to a chosen few, was the old colonial game by which the West imposed its will on the East. The post-colonial order of bipolar world after the World War II created a scope for the Third World to raise its head in relative independence. With the concord of the two superpowers, the whole of the South now stands to lose its bargaining chips and dance to the tune of the North's dictates. The conduct of most of the Third World nations in the Gulf crisis bears ample testimony to this unfortunate turn of history.

Saddam's challenge to stand on his own against superpower dictates is thus the first test of will of the South's right of independent choice, albeit at the behest of a divided Arab Nation. The statement he has been able to hold so far may hopefully establish that the days of gunboat diplomacy are over, even with a nuclear clout that can destroy but not win.

All along, Mr. Bush insisted that no reward should go to the "aggressor," namely Iraq. That was most deplorable and absurd. The "reward" Iraq has been seeking was the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution regarding the occupation of Arab territories by Israel. When it takes place, such implementation will constitute a reward to the world, to every country, to peace, to the Palestinians and to Israelis alike before being a reward to Iraq. The reward President Saddam has been seeking was, and still, legal, just, necessary and indispensable. If he got it, the reward to the whole world would have been, inter alia, the saving of all those lives which the war claimed so far and is going to claim, plus nurturing the hope of peace in the Middle East. To call this a reward to Saddam is the height of folly. If the denial of this "reward" to Saddam serves thereafter as a prelude or pretext to war, then the man who stood behind that denial and thereafter took the decision of war must have lost his clarity of vision and his senses altogether.

By insisting on unconditional withdrawal, Mr. Bush deprived the Iraqi president of a face-saving formula to withdraw. By sticking stubbornly to the no-reward-to-aggressor notion, Mr. Bush denied himself a face-saving formula to change his adamant policy as well. This deadlock led, naturally, to war.

Mr. Bush has been waging his personal war which he succeeded in convincing his countrymen was an American War. Again we say he failed to understand and speak the language of the average Arab (not that segment of wealthy Arabs who care only for maximising their pleasures). Specifically, he has failed to understand what the words dignity, honour and pride mean to that the Arab. More fatal mistakes will be committed by American statesmen and policy-makers if they do not learn that language.

"They seem more confident. We feel great. We're holding up," they would say.

## Gulf war hits South Africa

By Rodney Pinder  
Reporter

JOHANNESBURG — The Gulf war has hit South Africa's apartheid divide with explosive force, driving whites and blacks deeper into their racial bunkers.

Bot — just as in the Middle East — it has also brought together some strange bedfellows.

The black left and the white far right, who disagree on almost everything, have found common cause in their opposition to U.S.-led action against Iraq.

Anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela's militant wife Winnie, a fighter against white domination in her own right, demanded the United States should get out of the Gulf.

The pro-apartheid white supremacist Boerestart Party added a hearty bear-hug, with the wish Iraq will thoroughly thrash the allied forces.

Mostly, however, South Africa, as usual, has split along racial lines.

Whites cheered President George Bush while the black and Asian communities on the other side of the apartheid divide lined up behind President Saddam Hussein.

The white government offered America its support, including the use of bases and ports on the strategic Cape Sea route, while blacks and Asians, who outnumber whites by five-to-one, demonstrated across the country in favour of Iraq.

A survey by the mass-circulation Star newspaper reported most readers lining up according to their ethnic backgrounds.

From the non-white side came a call for "one American, one bullet" from reader M. Moosa, adapting the "one seuter, one bullet" rallying cry of South Africa's radical anti-apartheid Pan Africanist Congress.

H. Ismael said Bush had been

"driven insane by the smell of oil" and Krishna Desai called him "the real Hitler."

But white reader Allan Adams said Bush "did the right thing" and William Peters said the allies are "fighting for a free world."

One Muslim leader said he had mustered 10,000 volunteers to fight for Iraq and requested government help to travel north. No reply was immediately forthcoming but it was understood the government would not cooperate.

Ameen Akhlaq, editor of the anti-apartheid newspaper Indicator and self-described "Muslim, black South African and 60s peacenik" wrote: "If you're white, chances are you'll regard Bush as the good guy and Hussein as the bad guy, and vice-versa if you're black."

He explained: "Many black South Africans... suspect that the Western allies are all too ready to go to war against people who are not white..."

"If 'just' wars and liberation for democracy were the criteria, why did the Americans and the British refuse to impose sanctions, much less go to war, when apartheid forces occupied Namibia for so long?"

"Many black South Africans ask why the Americans and the British were so reluctant to impose sanctions, never mind go to war, to help them reclaim the 87 per cent of South Africa they insist was being occupied illegally by what they call settlers."

Political scientist Willem Kleynhans says many blacks subscribe to the view that "my enemy's enemy is my friend."

"The United States is identified with whites and they (the blacks) will never forget what they have suffered at the hands of the whites," he said.

## Ecopolitical Forum

## Bush's personal war not that of America

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

IN the very early days following the rolling of Iraqi forces into Kuwait, an outraged Mr. Bush branded President Saddam as "mad". Ever since he could not afford to hold his tongue and thus released a stream of odd words which contributed to the disruption of all channels of dialogue which would have been indispensable for any peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis (and to any other crisis). It was abundantly clear that the American president lost his nerves. Subsequent and present events, as well as testimonies of Western celebrities such as Mr. Edward Heath, British MP Antony Ben and W. Brandt proved not only that the steel-nerved Saddam Hussein was not mad but also that he was steel-nerved and shrewd as much as any human being can ever be. Now with the Gulf crisis coming to this most horrible juncture, it is high time for the Americans to check and see whether Mr. Bush is sane enough to be their president. The man who lost his nerves might well have lost his senses. The Gulf crisis has been an extremely rough ride with which the toughest of men may, understandably, crumble. It is difficult to believe that the man who takes the decision of a war like the present one can really be sensible or sane. True, the American president was bombarded by a ruthless, fierce and constant media instigation to destroy Iraq but none of the reasons and justifications given were American. The Israelis had a very good reason; the Kuwaitis had an even better one. Some Arab and public relations firms had a variety of good reasons as well but none of the reasons was American.

The entry of Iraqi forces into Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990 was a culmination of a dispute which was not possible thereupon to solve through peaceful means. The logical, sensible and responsible response of the head of the world superpower should have been to look into the roots and causes of that dispute and try to solve it peacefully on the basis of giving every party its legitimate rights. It is only through such an approach that grievances could be redressed and the dispute would be settled once and for all.

Plainly because he had felt that he was personally offended, Mr. Bush did not choose this approach but dwelt on a course mysteriously based on punishing Iraq and twisting President Saddam's arm. He thus demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and said he even would not talk to Iraq before that. Here the seeds of the present war were sown and Mr. Bush mobilised the might, influence and diplomacy of USA to block the ways to any peaceful solution and to set the stage ready for war which he triumphantly has had.

All along, Mr. Bush insisted that no reward should go to the "aggressor," namely Iraq. That was most deplorable and absurd. The "reward" Iraq has been seeking was the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution regarding the occupation of Arab territories by Israel. When it takes place, such implementation will constitute a reward to the world, to every country, to peace, to the Palestinians and to Israelis alike before being a reward to Iraq. The reward President Saddam has been seeking was, and still, legal, just, necessary and indispensable. If he got it, the reward to the whole world would have been, inter alia, the saving of all those lives which the war claimed so far and is going to claim, plus nurturing the hope of peace in the Middle East. To call this a reward to Saddam is the height of folly. If the denial of this "reward" to Saddam serves thereafter as a prelude or pretext to war, then the man who stood behind that denial and thereafter took the decision of war must have lost his clarity of vision and his senses altogether.

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## LETTERS

## Human suffering due to the Gulf war

To all colleagues and those who feel concerned;

We, the multiprofessional team of the National Centre for Psychological and Educational Consultation in Amman, Jordan, cannot sit by and watch the belligerent events which have been taking place in the Gulf region since Jan. 17, 1991. The mass media is doing its utmost to give the world details of the technical and strategic warfare: How many bombs have been thrown, how many air fighters have been shot down, which targets were aimed at and in which way and most important, the rate of success, etc.. It is being deliberately stopped from reporting the "human costs" of the war: The death of soldiers and innocent civilians, the pain of the injured, the anxiety and insecurity of the people who have to expect heavy attacks at any time, the destruction of homes, the human suffering from daily shortages of basic supplies, including medicine, the long term effects of the destruction of the basic necessities of life on the welfare and development of people, as well as the consequences of the omission of measures to enhance the quality of life for the people in those countries which started the war, the investment of millions of dollars everyday in the manufacturing of life destructing weapons.

We, as professionals in the fields of psychology, counselling, education and dependency treatment, are all committed to promoting and supporting the physical and psychological well-being of all fellow human beings regardless of race, sex and religion. We do this by preventive educational, therapeutic and rehabilitative work. Our professional ethics and principles do not allow us to accept solving conflicts by destructive means. We always teach mutual respect, the acknowledgement of human differences, the acceptance of different opinions, all for the sake of achieving mutual understanding by communication, negotiation and compromise. We strongly feel that the path of communication and negotiation has by far not been used sufficiently to resolve the conflict between Iraq and the U.S.

Although we come from different cultural, social and political backgrounds, we share common goals in our profession. We urge suffering caused by such a destructive war. We cannot just appeal to you to share with us our responsibility to PREVENT all this human suffering. We ask you to use your professional influence to do whatever you can to STOP THIS WAR NOW!

Fawzi S. Daoud, Ph.D.,  
Clinical Psychologist,  
P.O. Box 140565,  
Amman.



# Baghdad in a perspective of time

By Jabra I. Jabra

The following is an excerpt from a book written by the above author entitled 'A Celebration of Life: Essays on Literature and Art' published in 1987.

Whether it was an accident of history, or the resultant of a multiplicity of forces — geographical, climatic, ethnic and other wise — it is certain that Sumer, in the Southern part of Iraq, brought about the first great civilisation of man more than 5000 years ago. Man's first cities rose on the great fertile plains around the Tigris and Euphrates: and the first human questioning about the complex relationship between man, God and the world started and developed in those very cities. NO wonder, then, that an ancient legend should arise that Adam was created in a Garden of Eden placed exactly where Sumer had flourished. A sense of a primordial order of existence took shape in man's collective memory associated with the cities and plains of Sumer.

The city of Babylon was a historical extension of Ur, Eridu, Uruk, but also a culmination and a crowning of them. In time, the nations that flourished in steady succession in the valley of the two rivers could not remember when Babylon, on the middle Euphrates, had actually been built. It had already become the archetypal city, the symbol of all that man had collectively accomplished by a combination of work, knowledge, and divine intervention. It was said that the gods had built it, and its very name meant "the gate of the Gods." There was a time when it was the centre of an empire, its rulers having achieved domination over most of the inhabited world known then, and there was a time when the centre shifted to other cities in the north. But at no time, over two thousands years or more, did it once lose its prominence as a city favoured by the gods. Even when the Assyrians had their capital in Ashur, or Calah, or Nineveh, Babylon was accorded a special governance. Nabopolassar at last, having destroyed Nineveh in 612 B.C., reinstated Babylon as the first among the cities of the ancient world, and his son Nabuchadnezzar made it the first and certainly the greatest cosmopolitan capital of a far-flung empire.

Babylon, in fact, was the first metropolis in history, the outward-oriented city of pluralities, capable of holding together in a viable and dynamic form a vast number of disparate elements, both human and cultural. Different races, religions, languages, all living together under the protection of one central organisation and one dominant culture. Under Nebuchadnezzar the wealth and the knowledge of most of the nations of the world poured into his city, only to be expanded and remoulded by Babylonian creative genius, then redistributed throughout the world. Twenty centuries earlier, the ziggurats of Mesopotamia had become a focus of human attention: Egypt's pyramids and temples had been inspired by them. Babylon's ziggurat, known as the Tower of Babylon, was the final fruit of all such structures: a radial point of human knowledge and enquiry, in the middle of a city that had become the wonder of the world. Mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, mammal crafts and literary arts, all reached a high point of development locally and were taught to the world at large. Religion, complex and diversified, was an operative force in art, in architecture as well as in government and the dispensation of justice. Babylonian myths gave man a sense of belonging within a universe that had thus become less incomprehensible. Man at last had come to grips with history.

When Cyrus came from the east and conquered Babylon in 539 B.C., he called himself King of Babylon. But the essence of the city escaped him: what he and his descendants actually did was to tear the city at the roots. When Alexander of Macedonia sought some two hundred years later to make Babylon the capital of his empire, it was too late: the city was mostly in ruins. It was there in the flesh, at least partly so, that the spirit had gone out of it completely.

For the real source of Babylon's miraculous existence was in the peoples who had been coming up constantly, in wave after wave, from the vast regions of the Arabian peninsula. Once this flow of energy was halted, as was the case around 500 B.C., Mesopotamia shrivelled up into insignificant colonies under foreign rulers. Every now and then an Arabian Hatria or Palmyra would erupt in resurgence almost out of the sands, as it were, and in two or three centuries fall down upon its foundations, again sapped of the energy that had fed it from the Arabian source.

Babylon is thus not only the first great metropolis, but the actual mother of all subsequent great cities of history. In their pluralism, in their drive as the perpetrators and disseminators of human knowledge and progress, Paris, London, New York, Moscow are in actual fact the offspring of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. Even more significant for Arab history is that Baghdad of the Abbasids was the real legatee of this magnificent mother of all great cities. Babylon had to wait for nearly twelve centuries to find itself at last resurrected in full brilliance some eighty kilometres away, on the banks of the Tigris. Another wave of human energy had welled up from Arabia and broken mightily on Mesopotamian shores. Baghdad emerged, almost overnight, from the same alluvial plain. Its Babylonian roots came to life again, and in a few years it was the wonder city of the world where, exactly like its forebear, the wealth and knowledge of mankind poured, to be enlarged and remoulded, then distributed throughout the world.

Even building Baghdad as a round city was not an alien concept for Iraq. Several round cities have been unearthed by archaeologists, dating back to various periods, especially Assyrian. Hatria was round also, and so was Wasit, south of Baghdad, which the Arabs had built some sixty years earlier. But Baghdad excelled them all in size and ordered shape.

Abbasid Baghdad was therefore the embodiment of the same

forces that had once made Babylon, and that later made the great cities of modern times.

Historically, it occupies a central position on the line of man's development and intellectual achievement. Culturally, the huge wealthy capitals of today hark back to Baghdad of the eighth and ninth centuries, with the difference that Baghdad then was indeed solitary in its splendour, with Byzantium falling some distance behind.

According to al Khatib al Baghdadi, it was thus described by al Jahiz, the great encyclopaedic thinker of the ninth century.

"I have seen the great cities, noted for their excellent construction, in the lands of Syria and Byzantium as well as other countries, but I have never seen a city loftier in structure, better in roundness, nobler in dimensions or wider in gates than al Zowra, al Mansour's city: it is as if it had been cast in a mould, or chiseled out like a sculpture."

In studying the thought and the arts of the Abbasid capital of 1000 years ago one could see much of the same motivation, drive and conflicts that are at work in the impulsive cities of our century. But when one of its inhabitants, Baghdad's remarkable historian al Khatib al Baghdadi (A.D. 1072), writes about it in the middle of the eleventh century — that is, nearly three hundred years after its foundation by al Mansour — it is with much pain that he writes its glory as a thing of bygone times. He says, in the past tense:

"Baghdad had no equal in the world in prominence, in excellence, in the number of its scholars and famed men, in the distribution of its elite and its commoners, in the size of its domains and the large number of its houses, dwellings, roads, peoples, quarters, markets, highways and byways, mosques and baths, inns and fashions of dress. It had no equal for the sweetness of its air, the freshness of its water, the coolness of its shades, the temperance of its summer and winter, the healthiness of its spring and autumn or the great number of its inhabitants whenever counted. It was at its best in buildings and people in the days of Harun al-Rashid, when the world was cool and stable wherever one stayed, generous in giving, fertile in field, crowded in public places..."

Baghdad's superiority is seen by al Baghdadi when his city was under the rule of its Arab Caliphs and leaders before they gradually lost their real power to non-Arabs, who later assumed authority over the capital in their name. With painful regret he goes on to say:

"Then it fell victim to sedition, and one disaster after another befell its people; its buildings were ruined and its inhabitants abandoned it."

But Ahmad ibn Wadhih al Yacoubi, who pre-dated al Baghdadi by nearly two centuries, had seen Baghdad in its hey-day in the ninth century, a little over a hundred years after its foundation. When he wrote about it in his Book of Cities, he described it as a thing of intense presence and vivid magnificence:

"The great city which has no equal east or west for area, width or construction, for plentiful water or salubrious air. As it has been inhabited by all kinds of people from other lands and other towns, who flocked to it from countries near and far, and as all those who came to it from distant horizons have preferred it to their own native lands, so much so that there is no country which has not in Baghdad some of its people with a living quarter or a trading spot or a working centre of their own. Baghdad has become the gathering place of things and men like no other city in the world. And because of its temperance of air, goodness of earth and freshness of water, its inhabitants have become so pleasant in disposition, healthy in looks and inventive in minds that they excel all people in learning, understanding and culture; in intellect and judgement; in trades, professions and the arts of earning; in skillful debate, good workmanship and the mastering of every craft. Therefore no scholar is more learned than their scholars, no narrator better informed than their narrators; their philosophers are the best in argument; their linguists the best in knowledge; their readers the most accurate; their physicians the highest in skill; their singers the cleverest; their craftsmen the most delicate; their writers the most expressive; their scholars the most articulate; their worshippers the most worshipful; their hermits the most pious; their judges the most conversant in law; their orators the most oratorical; their poets the most poetic, even their profligates the most extravagant..."

It is easy to conclude from this detailed description, which lists almost every aspect of society, that Baghdad was then the greater extension of ancient Babylon, preserving the same cultural essence which was to be a distinguishing feature of the large cities of later times. It was the essence embodied in the pluralism of a comprehensive Arab ethos given its unifying force by the genius of the Arabic language. The essence was also embodied in the uniqueness of Arab craftsmen, artists, scholars, thinkers and their superiority to all others everywhere else.

It is this essence which was soon under threat. In fact, it gradually got lost when the city "fell victim to sedition and one disaster after another befell its people; its buildings were ruined and its inhabitants abandoned it." It was the beginning of the long dark night that fell upon the city through its invaders and foreign rulers, when its essence, the secret of its being, was overlaid for centuries, until at last it was retrieved and reactivated by its people in our times.

This civilisational essence is now coming back into its own again. As it regains its prominence one would like to envision how in the next quarter of a century Baghdad will regain its original position in the context of human development and progress.

The city will expand to be two hundred times the size of Mansour's city, reverting to its circular form once more, but open all around; the 5sq. km. city planned by al Mansour in A.D. 762 will be more than 1000 sq. km. in area.

Planners will show much skill and imagination in drawing up its streets, buildings, markets, residential quarters — at least that is what we shall expect and insist upon as we join forces with its International Planning Organisations. The city's dynamism seems constantly to challenge the energy and vision of such planners; no less than four Master Plans have been made for the city since the late fifties, and Baghdad has yet to be given its due. It goes to show that planners must always renew their vision and re-feed their imagination by its sheer energy.

It population will grow to size unprecedented even under Harun al-Rashid; it will hit the eight million mark, which approximates the average of the great world capitals of today.

And yet one would like to imagine that Baghdad will remain, despite its magnitude, a place where man does not lose his human scale, where he can find his privacy when he wants it, as he can also find his happiness, his freedom, his dignity. Such are the characteristics of the great city in which, however high it rises and however far it expands, man himself must remain the master in harmony with his own daily creativity and yet in reasonable balance with a society helped by him to be in control of its technology.

One can see Baghdad receiving an endless flow of sciences and arts which it doubles with its own contribution and redistributes throughout the world, as proud of its pluralism as its great mother Babylon once was, and as inventive as Baghdad itself used to be a thousand year ago when it wrought man's progress in matter and in

## Oil slick

(Continued from page 1)

### Agriculture

Experts also say that very expensive agricultural projects, in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, could suffer from polluted water.

"Agricultural growth could be affected adversely," said Dr. Hashweh, pointing out that Saudi Arabia invested six to seven per cent of its gross domestic product in agriculture and fish production annually. The Gulf states, which depend heavily on fish food for their protein, have invested only two per cent of their gross domestic product; they are likely to suffer adverse effects on their agriculture if the slick continues.

A Saudi spokesman announced Tuesday that the oil slicks had already killed 32 dugongs, 500 turtles and 15,000 sea snakes.

Experts have suggested a variety of solutions as to how to deal with the slick and Arab, Norwegian, British and Japanese help has already been forwarded, but not all solutions seem ideal.

Some solutions of nature, according to experts, are that part of the oil film will evaporate upon exposure to air and sun.

If there is a lot of wind, experts say, then there will be mixing and parts of the oil may clut together and thus slowly go down to the bottom of the sea.

With time, months or possibly years, bacteria will detoxify and remove oil from water.

On the other hand man can help nature by protecting beaches and installations for water intake, as the Saudis have already done in part by building protective devices (booms), to prevent the flow of oil on the surface of these areas.

Another "man-made" solution would be to partially destroy the oil film by the addition of highly active surface agents (chemical dispersants) that will bind the oil and bring it down to the bottom. But this treatment can also prove to be at least partially toxic.

Allied military sources said Tuesday that military action had stemmed the flow of crude oil flowing into the Gulf. But industrial sources said that crude oil continues to flow into the Gulf.

Gulf environment officials are saying that most of the slick was still in Kuwait waters and that the oil was moving down the Saudi coast at a speed of five kilometres a day, down from 24 kilometres a

day Sunday.

While American and Iraqi officials accuse each other of starting the environmental disaster, some governments and organisations were already on their way to try and clean up the "mess".

A team from Britain's Southampton oil spill response centre was already on its way to the Gulf with a collection of skimmers and booms.

The Norwegian government, which has experience in fighting oil spills, has also offered its help in mopping up the oil spill.

Japan's prime Minister told his parliament Monday that Japan was also considering sending equipment and experts to contain the oil slick.

## Chevenement

(Continued from page 1)

Western diplomats said the resignation was a blow to Mr. Mit-

spirit.

Such is the context, or perspective, in which one must look at Baghdad. To achieve this fully is no doubt a huge responsibility. But then it is also a magnificent responsibility, and the Baghdadis are certainly equal to it.

Jabra Ibrahim Jabra is a leading novelist, poet and critic of the Arab world. Born in Bethlehem, Palestine, and brought up in Jerusalem, he has lived and worked in Baghdad since 1948. He was educated at the Arab College, Jerusalem, Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, and Harvard University. In Arabic, he has seven works of fiction, an autobiography, three collections of poetry, and eight collections of critical essays. He is also noted for his widely read translations of Faulkner and Shakespeare. Available in English are his two novels *Hunters in a Narrow Street* and *The Ship* (the latter translated by Adnan Hydar and Roger Allen), and *The Grass Roots of Iraqi Art*.

Besides being a member of the International Association of Art Critics, he is the President of the Association of Art Critics in Iraq. In 1983 he was awarded the Targa Europa Prize for Culture by Interart Forum in Rome, and in 1987 the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences awarded him its distinguished Prize for his life's achievement in the field of arts and literature. A year later he was awarded by Iraq the Saddam Prize for the Art of the Novel. *A Celebration of Life* is his first collection of Essays in English.

terrand, who has won overwhelming public support for his Gulf policies. Chevenement's positions had become increasingly embarrassing for Mr. Mitterrand, who is seeking a firm line on the Gulf war, they added.

France, a member of the U.S.-led alliance which went to war against Iraq Jan. 17, has sent more than 10,000 troops and warplanes to the Gulf.

Its last-minute attempts to find a peaceful solution aroused criticism from French conservatives and from allied governments that it was giving mixed signals to its allies and encouraging Iraq's belief that the U.S.-led coalition was weak.

French warplanes at first attacked Iraqi targets in Kuwait, but Mr. Mitterrand last week approved sorties by French jets into Iraq like those carried out by

the U.S. and British air forces. Max Gallo, a Chevenement supporter and former government spokesman, said Mr. Chevenement's decision to step down was remarkable.

"The decision shows that there are a lot of questions... on the aims of the war and where the logic of war is taking us compared with what was approved by the Security Council and the French parliament," Gallo said.

"Do we still have the same aim, the liberation of Kuwait, or are we now in favour of the total destruction of Iraq? Are we for the reshaping of the Middle East with a single gendarme?"

Tuesday's resignation was Mr. Chevenement's second. He resigned as industry minister in Mr. Mitterrand's first Socialist government in 1983 in protest against economic austerity measures.

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**Jordan Times**



# Schillaci may be dropped by Juventus

By Reuter

SALVATORE Schillaci, top scorer at the World Cup in Italy last year but with a meagre tally of league goals since then, is in danger of being dropped by Juventus Sunday.

"Toto" was suspended for the Turin team's match against newly-promoted Parma last weekend and the fact that they won 5-0 without him has posed something of a selection problem.

"The first thing that has to be said is that I'm pleased with the way Schillaci has been playing," coach Gigi Maifredi said, while pondering where to place the Sicilian striker.

"Anyway, in this Juventus side, there are many good players. All of them can end up on the subs' bench," he said.

The last time Juventus won a league match 5-0 — against Roma last November — Schillaci came good and plundered a quick hat-trick, but he has been short of goals since.

With or without Schillaci, Juventus should have too much

firepower for Atalanta who are carrying three consecutive losses, the last a 4-1 thrashing by Bari.

Atalanta now have a new coach, Bruno Giorgi, appointed on Tuesday to succeed Pier Luigi Frolo.

AC Milan's off-form Dutch striker Marco Van Basten also has no guarantee of starting Sunday at home to bottom of the table Cesena due to an apparent rift with the club.

## EUROPEAN SOCCER

The Dutch striker, voted the European Footballer of the Year in 1988 and 1989, missed Milan's last two matches and club sources suggested he had personally requested not to play.

However, the Italian sports newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport reported Tuesday that Van Basten had indicated his willingness to play against Genoa but was dropped.

In the meantime, Van Basten's Italian replacement, Daniele

Massaro, has scored in the last two games.

The other two little contenders, leaders Internazionale Milan and joint second-placed Sampdoria, have hard tasks.

Inter play Bologna while Sampdoria, buoyed by the possible return from injury of their 35-year-old Brazilian midfielder Cerezo, face a Fiorentina side unbeaten in its last seven games.

In Spain, Real Madrid's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez is doubtful for their clash with fourth-placed Seville because of a leg injury sustained in Sunday's 3-0 victory over Castellon.

League leaders Barcelona, who crushed Espanol 5-2 at the weekend, also have a doubt over striker Julio Salinas, who has an ankle ligament strain. He will miss two days training and could be out of Sunday's match at Valencia.

But better news for Barcelona came with the return to light training of Dutch defender Ronald Koeman, out for the past three months after an achilles tendon operation.

# Marseille players to boycott international soccer matches

PARIS (R) — Marseille players have vowed to boycott all official soccer matches — including internationals — until a ban on club President Bernard Tapie is lifted.

The players said Tuesday they would carry out an indefinite strike until a meeting with Tapie, despite threatened sanctions from the French Soccer Federation (FFF).

"It is out of the question for us to bow to a threat by Marseille players," FFF President Jean Fournet-Fayard said, but defender Basile Boli said the team was not worried.

"If (they) took sanctions against us it would be the death of French soccer. The French team is basically seven Marseille players. I can't understand what they are doing," said Boli.

"They're trying to destroy French soccer."

France are due to play Spain in a crucial European championship

group one qualifier in Paris on Feb. 20 while Marseille should meet European club champions AC Milan in a two-leg European Cup champions AC Milan in a two-leg European Cup quarter-final on March 6 and 20.

Club sources said Tapie, suspended for one year Monday for damaging sporting morale and insulting referees, may discuss the strike with the Marseille players Tuesday.

The controversial businessman, banned by French soccer's National Disciplinary Committee (CND), said he would resign once the future of the league champions was secured.

But he has said the strike is on solution and has urged the team to play on and win the European Cup for him instead.

"The players should carry on playing and win the European Cup just to prove those who have condemned me wrong," he said.

Asked Monday whether he would resign or continue as Marseille president, he said: "The question doesn't arise. I don't have the choice. You can't run a club by remote control. That doesn't exist. It demands day-to-day contact."

Tapie, who said he would step down as soon as he has found a successor, was not the only victim of the crisis which has rocked French soccer for the past six months.

Tonlon manager Roland Courbis, charged with six critics in an investigation into alleged fraud at the club, has said he will quit soccer at the end of the season.

Former Bordeaux President Claude Bezi, fined 50,000 francs (\$10,000) Monday for damaging sporting morale and making unfounded accusations, said he would appeal.

# Forest dumps Palace out of F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — A burst of three goals in 11 minutes finally took Nottingham Forest into the fourth round of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup at the expense of visitors Crystal Palace Monday.

Midfielder Gary Parker broke

the deadlock after 50 minutes in the third round second replay when he slotted home after good work by England midfielder Steve Hodge.

Parker hammered a superb second three minutes later and winger Gary Crosby rounded off

a typical flowing Forest move to hand Palace, beaten finalists last year, their heaviest defeat of the season.

The sides drew 0-0 in the first game and Palace grabbed a 2-2 draw in the replay last week with a dramatic late equaliser.

Three other attempts to stage the game in Nottingham were frustrated by bad weather.

Forest now travel to meet second division Newcastle United in a fourth round tie to be played on Feb. 11.

# Aouita pulls out of 3 indoor track events

NEW YORK (AP) — Said Aouita, holder of five world distance records, has withdrawn from three indoor track meets because of the flu, Millrose Games meet director Howard Schmertz said.

"He is scratched for the indoor season," Schmertz said Monday.

Aouita, who holds world outdoor records at distances from 1,500 metres to 5,000 metres, became ill while training in Mex-

ico City.

"When he recuperates, he will return home to Morocco," Schmertz said.

Aouita had been scheduled to compete in the Millrose Games Friday night at Madison Square Garden, the Mobil 1 Invitational Sunday at Fairfax, Virginia, and the Meadowlands Invitational on Feb. 8 at East Rutherford, New Jersey.

# Minter upsets Meshki in Auckland Classic

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Australian Anne Minter crushed top seed and defending champion Lella Meshki of the Soviet Union 6-4, 6-2 Tuesday in the first round of the \$100,000 Nutri-Metics Classic International Tennis Tournament.

Meshki had to pull out of the Australian Open with influenza and showed her lack of match fitness against a determined Minter.

"It was difficult for me to play someone who has already been playing matches when I had two days' practice," Meshki said.

Dutch qualifier Petra Kamstra ousted no. 6 seed Ann Grossman of the United States 4-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 after saving two match points, while German teenager Barbara Rittner upset third-seeded American Gretchen Magers 2-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Grossman led Kamstra by a set, 5-4 and 40-15 but then slumped.

Rittner, a semifinalist in the junior championship of the Australian Open, saved a break point at 5-5 in the second set and then broke Magers in the next game to win the set 7-5. She won the decisive set easily.

# Australia plays Belgium in Davis Cup

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Australian Davis Cup tennis captain Neale Fraser warned his team Tuesday not to underestimate Belgium in the first round match beginning Friday on the grass courts of Royal King's Park.

Australia is the No. 2 seed after losing to the United States in last year's final. Belgium is making its World Group debut and has no grass court players.

"If you cast your minds back to the first round last year, there were four upsets in the first round," Fraser said Tuesday.

"We don't want to be in that category this year."

"This is a World Group tie and we'll be treating Belgium as though we were playing the United States in the final."

Australia will be without former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash, who has opted to practice in Europe, but will be represented by Richard Fromberg, Darren Cahill, Wally Masur and new member Todd Woodbridge.

Fraser said current form would be the guideline in selecting the two players for the singles.

# Navratilova sounds challenge to young stars

HONG KONG (R) — After a bit of tinkering with her body and her game during the longest lay-off in her career, a new, improved Martina Navratilova has re-emerged on the women's tennis scene with a challenge to the young brigade.

"I was beginning to feel old but after the operation on my knees I feel 10 years younger," said the durable 34-year-old after her first competitive match in two months.

"I am healthier than I have been for many years."

U.S. Open champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, beaten in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open by Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario last week, was the first victim of the rejuvenated Navratilova, going down 6-3 6-4 in a challenge match played in Hong Kong Monday.

"For a first match after two months off she was pretty good," said Sabatini, the 20-year-old world number four, almost grudgingly.

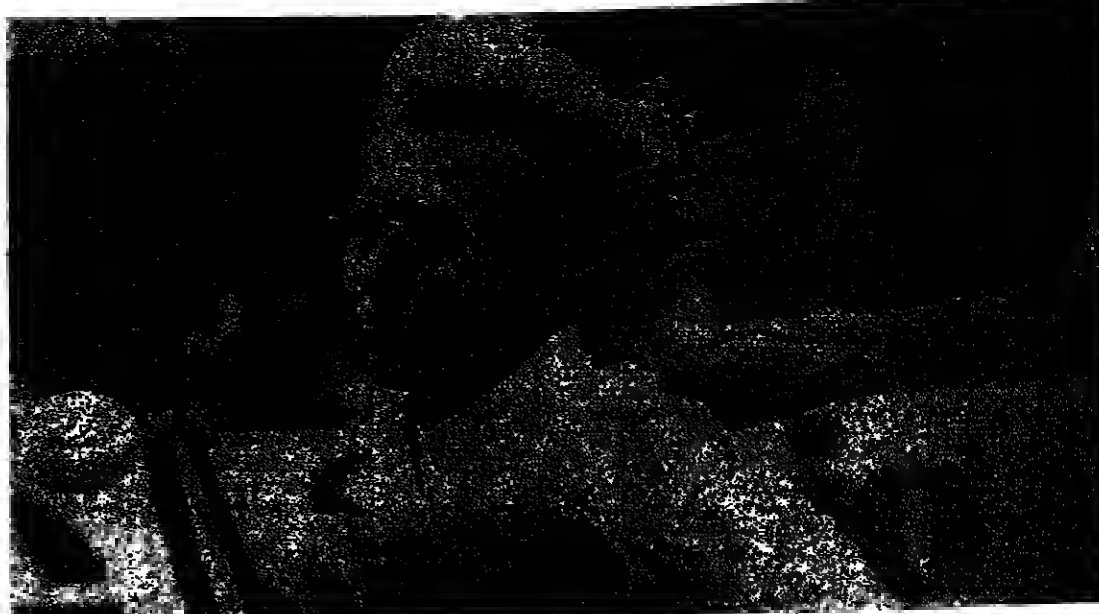
That understands it. An exhibition match it may have been, but Navratilova used the occasion to signal emphatically that she was back and in vintage form.

Sabatini had no answer to a re-modelled serve and the wonderful array of shots that gained the American a record ninth Wimbledon title last year.

Before the match Navratilova had been apprehensive. "I woke up with knots in my stomach," she acknowledged.

Afterwards she was positively euphoric. "It was far better than I expected," said the world's third-ranked player. "I am thrilled with the result."

Two small vertical scars were the only evidence of recent surgery to remove excess calcium which had weakened her knees.



Martina Navratilova

"The knees are good — I am grateful it was not a career-ending injury," said Navratilova. "After the operation I knew the knees would be all right."

She was not as confident about the new compact serve which she has developed over the past two weeks. But it worked.

"The new serve is an improvement. Before it was slice, slice, slice. Now I am trying to put more racket on the ball," she said.

Despite apparently winning the battle against age, Navratilova has set herself realistic goals for 1991.

She skipped the Australian Open won by world number two Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and will miss the French Open to concentrate on taking her Wimbledon singles haul into double

# HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Harris

"Maybe if I had a bigger breakfast I wouldn't be so hungry at dinner."

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TIELE  
FYTHE  
SPYNAP  
DITORR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WELL AS

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BAKED AFOOT RADIUM VERMIN  
Answer: What the sailor shouted when he saw the surfer — MAN "OVER BOARD"

**THE Daily Crossword** by Dorothy S. Martin

ACROSS  
1. Laundry  
5. Above  
9. Max. money  
13. Pseudonym  
15. Respiratory sound  
16. Article  
17. Room: Fr.  
18. Troubles  
19. "Clair de..."  
20. Enclosed deck area  
22. Fragrance  
23. Excellent  
24. Chemical compound  
26. WY city  
30. Object of adoration  
31. Opposed to  
32. Snug as...  
35. Small lutes  
41. From — Z  
42. Nimble  
43. Razor sharpener  
44. Factual worker  
46. Heavy's companion  
47. Russ. news agency  
48. Cana  
51. Israel  
53. Poems  
55. City on the Adriatic  
56. Some TV shows  
62. Assert  
63. Decorous  
64. Ol. a region  
65. 007  
66. Sharp edge  
67. Lasso  
68. Epochs  
69. Obse  
70. Take an oblique course

DOWN  
1. Stinging insect  
2. Rust, range  
3. Window ledge  
4. Ring of light  
5. Giant hunter  
6. Worth  
7. Building wing  
8. Sow again  
9. Stove feature  
10. Chopin opus  
11. Madrid man  
12. Heb. measure  
13. Bristles  
14. Isr. dance  
15. Divan  
16. Toy emmo  
17. Dill herb  
18. Celebrity  
19. Flowers  
20. Stravinsky  
21. Low voice  
24. Indian  
25. Decree  
27. Ms. Logan  
28. Witnessed  
29. Practice for a bout  
30. Complain  
31. Rust, range  
32. Window ledge  
33. as the eye can see  
34. Rainbow  
35. Disclosure of a secret  
36. branch  
37. With a cupola  
38. A Ruth  
39. Dies —  
40. Rainbow  
41. Disclosure of a secret  
42. Spouse  
43. Cabbage salad

**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH  
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**IMPROVE THE ODDS**

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 7  
♥ 10 6 5 3 2  
♦ 7 2  
♣ A 9 5 2

**EAST**  
♠ K J 10 9 6 4  
♥ 3 5 2  
♦ Q J 10 9  
♣ 8 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 3  
♥ A K 9 8 7 4  
♦ A K  
♣ K 10 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ 1♠ 2♣ Pass  
3♥ Pass 5♥ Pass  
6♥ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♥

One of the traps to which an expert falls prey is thinking a situation is familiar, and not looking deeper into the position. As a result, a better chance is sometimes overlooked.

North's cue-bid showed a limit raise or better in hearts, i.e. some 10 points or more with at least four-card support. From South's hand that virtually guaranteed an ace, so South jumped over game to invite partner to bid slam with first- or second-round spade control. North dutifully cue-bid the ace of spades, but South had already stretched his assets to their limit.

West led the queen of diamonds and declarer thought the problem of holding his black-suit losers to one could be solved routinely. After winning in hand, declarer drew trumps in two rounds, cashed the remaining diamond honor and ace of spades, and exited with a spade to the queen and West's king.

Naturally, West switched to a club. Declarer played low from dummy and captured East's jack with the king, then ran the ten of clubs—down one.

Declarer's line needed only split club honors, but he could have done better. Considering the lead, there was a virtually sure-trick line available.

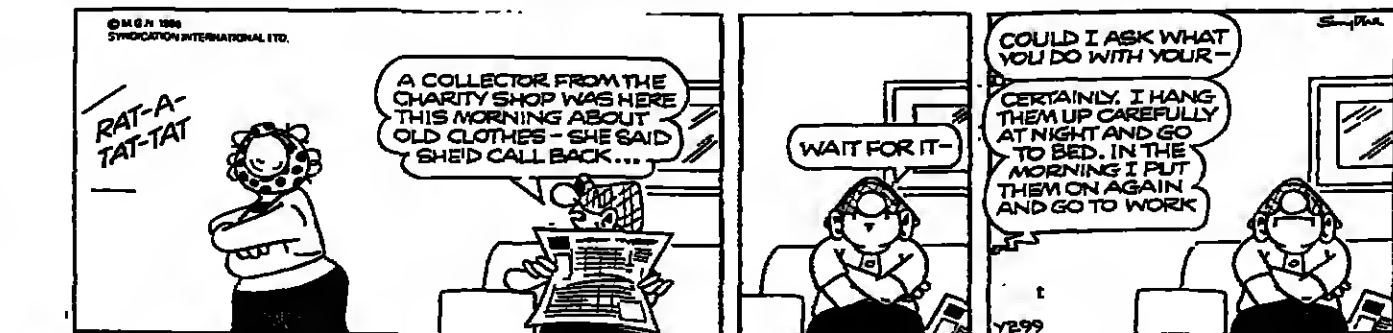
After drawing trumps, declarer should have cashed his remaining high diamond, then crossed to the ace of clubs to lead a low club toward the closed hand. If East produces an honor, declarer wins and concedes a club to the outstanding honor and later takes a spade discard on dummy's established nine of clubs. If East plays low, declarer inserts the ten.

If that loses to a doubleton honor in the West hand, West is end-played. If clubs are 3-3, dummy's long club sets up for the spade pitch. If West started with four clubs, he subsequently will be squeezed in the black suits.

# Mutt'n'Jeff



# Andy Capp



# Peanuts





## EC lends Greece \$3b

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) finance ministers said Monday that they had agreed to lend about 2.2 billion European Currency Units (ECUs) to Greece to help rescue its struggling economy.

"Ministers agreed in principle that medium-term financial assistance to the balance of payments, of the order of 2.2 billion ECUs, would be made available to Greece," the EC said in a statement issued after their one-day meeting.

The first tranche of the loan, comprising about one billion ECUs (\$1.4 billion) would be disbursed as soon as a final decision on the deal was reached when ministers meet on Feb. 25.

Further tranches would be disbursed in the light of the implementation of the Greek govern-

ment's tough economic programme, the statement said.

Luxembourg Finance Minister Jean-Claude Juncker said the Greek government's request for the loan had been granted after difficult discussions lasting several months.

"In the spirit of solidarity, the Community cannot turn a deaf ear to this appeal," Juncker said. EC commissioner for economic affairs, Henning Christophersen, said the decision showed that "we are prepared to decide problems within the family."

Greece's budget deficit and inflation are the highest in the Community at 18.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and 22.8 per cent respectively.

Athens has a budget plan to bring the deficit down to 16.6 per cent and inflation to 17 per cent this year.

But when the request for help was first made in November, the EC's monetary committee suggested it might be better for Greece to go to International Monetary Fund for help.

The Community in 1985 loaned 1.75 billion ECUs to Greece, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion then, with strings attached. But the conditions of redrawing inflation and the budget deficit to below 10 per cent, were never met, leading some countries to demand stricter terms this time.

A commission report submitted to finance ministers for debate Monday was scathing about the Greek economy.

"The budgetary imbalance is clearly unsustainable and determined application of budgetary adjustment policies will need to be sustained over several years," the report said.

## Britain starts offensive to raise Gulf war cash

LONDON (R) — The British government decided Tuesday to begin a series of ministerial meetings with other countries in the anti-Iraq coalition to raise money to defray its expenses in the Gulf war, government sources said.

They said the war cabinet chaired by Prime Minister John Major decided that the round of top-level contacts would start with a visit to Germany by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hord Wednesday.

The sources declined to say which other countries Britain would approach but said they would include other European Community (EC) members, Gulf states and Japan.

British officials have expressed bitterness over the low level of financial help being given to Britain. Its 35,000-man force in the Gulf is the second-biggest non-Arab contribution after that of the United States.

The sources did not say how much Britain was hoping to raise to offset its costs.

"Foreign and treasury (finance ministry) ministers will go to different places" to discuss extra contributions, an official said.

He said there were indications from other countries that they "recognised their responsibilities ... there has been a positive response but we have not got down to numbers yet."

Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont raised the issue with other EC finance ministers at a routine meeting in Brussels Monday and said he was hopeful more money could be raised.

## Bush expected to shy away from quick-fixes for ailing economy

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush is expected in the coming weeks to unveil an array of measures to aid the U.S. economy in the long run, but little to lift it immediately from its recession, officials said Monday.

With the Gulf war dominating the headlines, Bush has escaped criticism for presiding over America's first economic downturn in eight years and is under little pressure to announce emergency measures in his State of the Union address Tuesday.

"The context (of the address) is dominated by the discussion of the Gulf conflict," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters.

"The speech will reflect the president's thinking on the conflict, what it means for the country, what it means for the economy and our domestic agenda as well," he added.

The White House has pinned the blame for the U.S. downturn squarely on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, arguing that his invasion of Kuwait sparked a rise in oil prices that tipped the economy into recession.

But Bush administration economists are hopeful that the economy will start to turn around by the middle of the year, aided by lower interest rates and oil prices as the uncertainty surrounding the Gulf crisis clears.

They said the administration is working on a series of measures — from proposals to strengthen the battered U.S. banking industry to more spending on research and development — to strengthen the economy in the longer term.

U.S. officials said Bush has rejected calls for such economic quick-fixes as stepped-up spending or more government regulation to combat the downturn because those measures would provide little short-term relief and hurt in the long run.

"The president will try to make sure that any economic policies or initiatives are proposed will be good for the long term, not just short-term palliatives," Bush's chief economic advisor, Michael Boskin, said earlier this month.

Besides, with U.S. budget deficit expected to balloon to more than \$300 billion this fiscal year, the administration has little room to manoeuvre, analysts said.

"We have a serious deficit problem that will have to be the subject of focus (of the speech)," Fitzwater said.

Bush is likely to argue Tuesday that last year's agreement to slash the deficit by \$500 billion over five years will put the economy on a sounder footing and enhance long-term growth.

Senior administration officials have sought to downplay the impact of the Gulf war on the budget deficit, saying that America's wealthy allies will pick up much of the tab.

"We expect this to be (financially) manageable because we expect to have very substantial foreign contributions," said budget director Richard Darman.

Both Fitzwater and Darman rejected calls for a special tax to pay for the war. Administration economists said that the weakness of the economy if anything argues for a tax cut, not a tax increase.

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## German bankers say S. Africa may return to capital markets

BONN (R) — South Africa, shunned on world capital markets for six years, believes it has improved its image enough to allow public issues of debt abroad, German bankers said Tuesday.

They said Pretoria intended to launch a government-backed bond issue in early autumn, but detailed talks had yet to open.

"We have been informed by the government and private borrowers that South Africa intends to come back to test the water this fall," one official at a large German bank said.

"We hope that within six months or so, South Africa will again be fit for good society," he said, adding that at present banks were reluctant to conduct any deals publicly for fear of provoking an anti-apartheid backlash.

Much would depend on political developments, including progress in talks between President F.W. de Klerk, who has started to scrap apartheid, and African National Congress leader Nelson

Mandela.

A South African diplomat said final timing for a new bond issue would be set once the European Community (EC) abolished its sanctions against Pretoria. He said the EC move was expected at an EC summit set for June but could come as early as April.

De Klerk is expected to end black exclusion from land ownership and residential segregation when parliament, which excludes the country's black majority, opens in February.

These two measures would fulfil the last two requirements set by the EC for lifting sanctions. Bankers said the United States and Japan were also considering scrapping sanctions.

Until international banks ended new lending amid a black uprising in 1985, South Africa was viewed as an ideal capital market borrower, bankers said. Its payments were always on time and premiums were high.

They said many customers had

remained loyal to South African issues, enabling German banks to quickly and quietly place about 250 million marks (\$169 million) of bonds rescheduled for selected borrowers in private issues last year.

Reschedulings this year would rise to around 500 million marks (\$338 million).

South Africa had outstanding debts of 1.76 billion marks (\$1.19 billion) with German banks in September 1990, compared to around 1.37 billion marks (\$925 million) in 1985, according to German central bank statistics.

## Calm slowly returns to Turkish markets

ISTANBUL (R) — The Gulf war has shaken Turkey's economy but confidence is slowly returning to the financial sector, bankers and businessmen said Tuesday.

"Things have slowed down. But we're fast gaining immunity against war," said Uzeyir Garib, chairman of private industrial conglomerate Alarko Holding.

"In the early days of the war we were all glued to the television, thinking Iraq could attack Turkey any time. We were too unnerved to do business. But now the war has become part of our daily life," said an Ankara banker.

Showrooms stocked with cars and empty hotels and restaurants in Istanbul testify to the economic slowdown in frontline Turkey, a base for U.S. air raids on Iraq.

But financial markets have calmed following a short-lived panic on the eve of the Gulf war 12 days ago.

There was a run on deposits with Turks withdrawing some 5,000 billion lira (\$1.6 billion) from banks.

Central bank sources said half of the lira withdrawals had been returned in the past week.

Istanbul's emerging stock market ignored Baghdad's Jan. 23 charge that Turkey was responsible for "unjustified aggression" by allowing U.S. planes to bomb Iraq from a southern base. Since then, the stock market has been

going up.

"The market is used to the idea that war can last up to four months," said Bahattin Demir of Cans Brokerage house.

Bankers see the Gulf war as short term.

"There's a wait-and-see mood. But Turkey by definition is quite a booming country and we're still optimistic," said Jean-Baptiste Surville, deputy general manager of French Banque Indosuez's Istanbul branch.

Turkey stood out as a regional economic powerhouse after last year's industrial expansion and fast agricultural recovery from drought. Gross national product grew by 9.1 per cent in the first nine months of 1990 on an annual basis.

"We can't just sit down and wait just because there's war. Business is slow but I still managed to sell three cars this week," said Kamil Kocer at his newly-opened showroom in central Istanbul stocked with East European cars.

How bad Turkey's economy will be hurt depends on the duration of the war. The current account was \$2.3 billion in the red in the first 11 months of 1990 and foreign trade gap up 120 per cent to \$8.88 billion over a year ago.

A prolonged war will badly hit revenues from tourism, which totalled \$3.3 billion in the first 11 months of 1990.

## Philippines eyes reconstruction of Kuwait

MANILA (Agencies) — The Philippines said Tuesday the Gulf war would present a major opportunity for Filipino companies and contract workers to help in rebuilding Kuwait when the conflict is over.

The end of the Gulf war "will present massive opportunities to Filipino workers... who will be summoned to the Middle East for reconstruction work," President Corason Aquino's chief of staff, Oscar Orbes, told construction executives.

"After the war, there will be rebuilding which would be done on a massive scale. The government will not sit idly and watch from the sidelines as the giant reconstruction job unfolds," he noted.

About 40,000 Filipino workers lost their jobs when Iraqi troops advanced into Kuwait last Aug.

2. More than 500,000 Filipinos work in the Middle East.

The government said tourists were safe from "terrorist" attacks on the Philippines despite a bungled bomb attack by pro-Iraqi supporters at a U.S. library in Manila.

The Philippines remained a "safe destination for tourists," acting Tourism Secretary Rafael Alunan said. He spoke after a wave of hotel cancellations in Manila by tourists fearing bomb attacks and possible plane hijacking by pro-Iraqi sympathisers.

In another sector, the state-run Philippine Airlines (PAL) is suffering significant losses in revenues due to the Gulf war and no immediate relief is in sight, an official said Tuesday.

The war forced the airline to cancel its five weekly flights to the Middle East, its most lucrative route, said Enrique Santos, PAL vice president for corporate communications.

The Gulf conflict also forced PAL to reduce its flights to Europe from six to two, Santos added.

Santos said there was "a little slowdown" in traffic from the United States because travellers feared terrorist attacks on airlines and were hesitant to travel while a war in progress.

The airline has instituted strict conservation measures, cut working days from five to four at its corporate headquarters, and may further reduce unpopular flights.

The airline first reduced its flights to Doha, Riyadh and Dubai after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and then cancelled all of them beginning Jan. 9.

Santos declined to give figures

for the airline's losses, saying competitors "would just love to know how much we are losing."

He did say the cancellation of the Middle East flights alone accounted for a 30 per cent loss in total income.

Santos said the airline had been suffering losses since November due to high fuel and insurance costs.

The Manila Bulletin has reported that operating costs of Asian airlines have increased by as much as 12 per cent because of higher fuel and insurance costs. PAL's difficulties have been aggravated by a scarcity of foreign exchange.

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## N. Ireland continues to attract investors

BELFAST (R) — Foreign investors are still attracted to Northern Ireland despite the gloomy media image of the province as being all bombs and bullets, says a top business leader.

"The reality is very workable. The problem is perception," said Tony Hopkins, chief executive of the Industrial Development Board (IDB) which has launched a drive to court American, Asian and European firms.

Offering a competitive package of business grants and a young, computer-literate, English-speaking workforce, he said: "Our job is to get the investors to look past the headlines."

Nearly 3,000 people have died in the 21-year battle by Irish Republican Army guerrillas to end British rule in the province.

On the economic front, a record number of businesses collapsed in Northern Ireland last year and unemployment is twice the national average in Britain.

But foreign investors have nevertheless injected money into

the province.

Two years ago South Korea's Daewoo Electronics built an £18 million (\$35.27 million) video cassette recorder factory which employs 500 people.

French motor component manufacturer Montepuc is investing £90 million (\$176.3 million) in an aluminium foundry producing cylinder heads for Ford Zetec engines.

It will create 1,000 jobs in a national unemployment black-spot and be sited at the former plant of U.S. entrepreneur John de Lorean's ill-fated sports car venture which crashed in 1982.

"Five years ago we had no Japanese investment. Now 2.5 per cent of our workforce is employed by Japanese companies," Hopkins said.

A Japanese company, Ryobi, has invested £15 million (29.39 million) to produce auto component engine parts in a venture that would create 100 jobs, he added.

The IDB has targeted computer technology, automotive components and the food sector as its three best bets for the 1990s.

"We are a small country and therefore not trying to do all things to all men," Hopkins said.

For Asian and U.S. firms, Northern Ireland is heavily promoted as a cost-effective and competitive bridge into Europe for the post-1992 single market in the European Community (EC).

"Ten per cent of our workforce is employed by American companies. Dupont and Ford have been here for over 30 years," Hopkins said.

Consultants Dun and Bradstreet estimated that 416 Northern Ireland businesses failed in 1990, up 15 per cent on 1989. They blamed "a long period of high interest rates and the onset of a new recession."

Northern Ireland's unemployment rate is 13.9 per cent, compared to the British overall rate of 6.5 per cent and the EC

average of 8.3 per cent.

But Hopkins is upbeat about the long-term, quick to single out the province's main plus point — people.

"We have a surplus of university graduates with computer software skills," he said.

"Business strategists want to be sure they can have an adequate supply of labour for 20 years. The 16-24 age group in the United Kingdom is due to go down by 23 per cent over the next decade. That figure is mirrored in Germany and France. In Northern Ireland, it will only be going down about 11 per cent."

Even with a Gulf war draining the British exchequer and a recession looming, Hopkins is sanguine. "Northern Ireland companies are fitter than they were five to 10 years ago."

"A great deal of attention has been given to marketing and management. They are in good shape and more outward-looking. Strategic planning is no longer a dirty word," he pointed out.

## China said desperate to boost oil and gas deposits

BEIJING (R) — China is desperate to boost its shrinking oil and gas deposits and has pinpointed certain areas, including the potentially rich Tarim basin, for development, the official China Daily has said.

Foreign oil experts have said the Tarim basin in China's remote western province of Xinjiang may contain as much oil as the North Sea.

So far the Chinese government has withheld joint venture exploration rights, which foreign oil companies are hoping for.

"The Chinese government, desperate to put a halt to shrinking

oil and gas deposits, has designated 10 areas for intensified exploration in the next five years," the newspaper said.

It did not give figures to illustrate the government's concern. The agency quoted the ministry of geology and mineral resources as saying areas designated for development besides Tarim were the northeast's Songliao basin, Sichuan in the southwest, two areas in Tibet, three unspecified areas in the East and South China seas.

Tarim and the East China Sea were described by the ministry as "the nation's last, and perhaps

richest, virgin sites of onshore and offshore oil and gas."

It said Chinese prospecting teams in Luan in the Tarim basin reported substantial progress, and that an initial batch of crude oil had been sent for refining this month.

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**FAVOR DAR MAYOR IMPORTANCIA AL CONTENIDO DE ESTE AVISO.**

**ELIA C. NUQUEL**  
Cónsul H. de Colombia



## Superpower summit delay is warning to Gorbachev — reformer

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The U.S.-Soviet summit delay will warn Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that his new hard line threatens to restore the cold war and jeopardises his accomplishments, a leading Soviet reformer said Tuesday.

"I think this can be a very strong signal for our president and for our rulers in general that the result of their turn back can be a restoration of the cold war," Moscow Deputy Mayor Sergei Stankevich said in interview. State-owned news media reported but did not immediately comment on the decision by U.S. President George Bush and Gorbachev to postpone the scheduled Feb. 11-13 Moscow summit.

Stankevich said that by postponing the summit, the United States in effect was warning Soviet hardliners that "almost all of the fruits from the previous period, including the peace dividend, can be sacrificed in favour of their ideological triumph."

"This price is too high, even unbearable for our society, because to start a new round of the arms race, to start a new period of cold war, is unbearable economically and impossible politically," said Stankevich, interviewed in the ornate white room at Moscow City Hall.

Radio Moscow reported in a morning newscast that "due to the war in the Gulf, Mr. Bush must remain in Washington. And besides, work on the strategic

arms reduction treaty requires more time."

The radio also noted that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said he and Bush did discuss the Baltics issue at length with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh in Washington but that it was not a reason for the postponement.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Bessmertnykh "spoke about President Gorbachev's efforts to resolve the emerging problems by means of dialogue and in the interest of perestroika."

"Hasty assessments and statements in the West do not help. They contradict the task of retaining perestroika and developing new constructive elements in international relations," TASS reported Bessmertnykh as saying.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told reporters in Vilnius Monday night that he hoped the failure to cite the Baltic crackdown in postponing the summit would not encourage the military to take new steps against Lithuania.

"It is not so important what person is named," Landsbergis said. "It is more important what reasons are in mind, and whether they have these reasons in mind or not will be seen in the results."

"I hope that such a formulation (in the official statement) will not encourage the Soviet military to take new aggressive action," he said.

Stankevich said that for several months Gorbachev has paid less attention to his reforms than to winning the loyalty of hardliners in the Communist Party, armed forces and KGB who fear and oppose the changes he began when he came to power in March 1985.

Soviet generals, bitter over arms cuts, the withdrawal from Eastern Europe and efforts to trim their budgets, have been angered by the war in the Gulf, in part because it pits the United States against a long-time Kremlin client, Iraq.

The war "is like dope for our generals," he said explaining that it acted as a stimulant for them. Citing recent public comments by Soviet generals arguing for higher military spending and against Gorbachev's "new thinking" in foreign relations, Stankevich said the Soviet Union has an enormous army "considering our economic situation and our international situation, and this army tries to defend itself and preserve itself."

Meanwhile Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkums said Monday Western governments were clearly backing the Baltic republics against a feared Soviet military assault on their fledgling democracies.

Jurkums told Reuters that governments, including Britain, France, Germany and Sweden,

had threatened Gorbachev with sanctions if troops crushed independence movements in Lithuania and Estonia.

Asked how those countries had helped, he said: "Just by sending a clear-cut message to Gorbachev that the situation in the Baltics is not obscured by the Gulf crisis and that the use of force against the democratic forces in the Baltics will not be tolerated."

"I understand economic sanctions and political sanctions will be applied to stop that."

He said Western governments had put forward this message through international organisations such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which groups Europe and North America in disarmament talks.

Jurkums was in Bonn with his Estonian and Lithuanian counterparts to press German leaders for continued backing against Moscow despite world attention on the Gulf war.

All three were received for the first time by German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, which Jurkums called a signal of Bonn's support for the pro-independence republics.

Moscow has begun pulling out about 380,000 troops from former East Germany under a treaty signed with united Germany last November that set a 1994 deadline for the withdrawal.

## Lithuanian shot in the head at military checkpoint

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (R) — Soviet troops at a checkpoint in Lithuania shot and seriously wounded a 20-year-old man thought to be trying to avoid conscription into the army, a spokesman for the parliament of the rebel republic said Tuesday.

Andrius Azubalis identified the man as Jonas Tautkus and said he had been shot in the back of the head after failing to stop immediately at an army checkpoint near the capital Vilnius Monday night.

Azubalis said Tautkus was thought to have been a draft dodger hiding from Soviet troops sent to the rebel republic to catch deserters and reinforce conscription.

He was now in hospital suffering from severe brain damage. Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis immediately condemned the army for the shooting.

"I would not like to have such sad thoughts, but his life is in danger... In brief, we may have yet another victim," Landsbergis said in comments to parliament monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Tension has been high in the Baltic republic, which is seeking to regain independence from Moscow, since Soviet troops killed 13 unarmed Lithuanians while storming the Vilnius television tower on Jan. 13.

The pro-independence government of Lithuania has protested repeatedly at the activities of Soviet troops, who have seized buildings and carried out searches and identity checks.

Azubalis said Tautkus had been in a car that failed to stop immediately at a checkpoint near Vilnius on the road to Lithuania's second city of Kaunas.

## Mandela, Buthelezi hope for peace

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Rival black leaders Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi met Tuesday for the first time in almost 30 years with both leaders expressing hope they can end a bloody partisan war.

Smiling and laughing, Mandela and Buthelezi warmly shook hands and joked while posing for photographers at the start of peace talks. Delegates from Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and Buthelezi's Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party shared in the smiles and laughter.

Asked if they were optimistic, both leaders replied, "we are hopeful."

Buthelezi added, "we are very hopeful, otherwise we would not be here."

The two leaders made speeches during the morning session stressing the need for political tolerance and restraint by their followers. They said peace was vital to ensure the end of apartheid.

"We are different kinds of organisations. History however demands that we turn our differences into advantages for South Africa... We must get on with the job of living together," Buthelezi said.

Mandela said the ANC accepted the rights of other political groups. "The ANC does not demand of the Inkatha Freedom Party complete agreement with our views," he said.

But both cautioned against any hopes of a quick breakthrough. Asked during a break how things were going, Buthelezi said, "neither he (Mandela) nor I can wave a magic wand... I don't think one should be unrealisticly optimistic."

The two leaders were to lead discussions later between Inkatha's 68-member delegation and some 20 ANC delegates.

The two sides are trying to end the bloody war between ANC and Inkatha supporters that has claimed some 6,000 lives in recent years and threatened political sta-

bility in South Africa. President F.W. de Klerk has begun dismantling apartheid and promises to share power with the black majority. The possible end of white-minority rule has increased rivalry between black organisations jockeying for power.

Security outside the Royal Hotel, where the talks were held, was tight. Police armed with automatic weapons surrounded the building.

Some 100 Inkatha supporters, including some in Zulu tribal dress, peacefully demonstrated outside and cheered wildly when Buthelezi went over to greet them.

The meeting marked the first time Mandela and Buthelezi, who were close friends, had seen each other in almost three decades. Mandela was freed from prison last February after 27 years for opposing the white-minority government.

While little of substance is likely to emerge from Tuesday's meeting, a friendly encounter between the country's two most powerful black leaders is seen as crucial to ending the fighting.

"We do not expect miracles from Tuesday's talks, but the mere fact these two leaders will be seen talking may cause sanity to prevail among their followers," said the black-oriented newspaper City Press.

If the fighting does not slacken, it will cast doubt on the ability of the two leaders to control their supporters.

"As far as I envisage, (the meeting) will be a contribution toward the lessening of violence," said Inkatha official Themba Khoza.

"It's one thing for the leaders to meet and shake hands, another to transfer the reconciliation down to grass-roots level," said ANC spokesman Saki Macazoma.

## Judge refuses to dismiss Noriega drug case

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge Monday rejected the defence's call to throw out Manuel Noriega's drug case, ruling the deposed Panamanian leader's rights had not been jeopardised by government taping of his prison phone calls.

The defence had asked U.S. District Judge William Hoeveler to dismiss the indictment on grounds of government misconduct.

Noriega's attorneys accused the prosecution of improperly recording call between their client and their office, one of which was later leaked and telecast by CNN.

But prosecutors responded that Noriega had signed documents acknowledging his calls were being monitored and taped. Hoeveler said Monday that the June 24 trial will go on as planned.

"While there were some irregularities, I'm going to follow the law which says that dismissal is too great a sanction," said Hoeveler. "I don't think the defendant has been hurt to the extent that he has been denied a fair trial."

But the judge also emphasised that the question was not closed. He said that he would review the matter as the case progressed if the defence could show him evidence of damage to their case caused by the phone recordings.

On another front, Noriega's attorneys confirmed they will remain on the case, in view of the Austrian government's release of \$1.6 million in frozen funds linked to their client.

More than \$18 million are still frozen in European banks, and the federal government has agreed to continue trying to get enough of that money released to pay Noriega's attorneys.

The defence says the \$1.6 million are already committed for past expenses, and they agreed to accept \$75 an hour — far less than the \$350 an hour that lead attorney Frank Rubino says he needs — from the federal government until more of their client's money is released. Only two attorneys — Rubino and co-counsel Jon May — will be covered by the government's fee arrangement.

The judge's ruling on the dismissal case left other questions as well. Cable News Network is still potentially liable for criminal contempt fines for airing one tape in alleged violation of Hoeveler's order, although no hearing date has been set in that case.

And Jose Blandon, Noriega's former intelligence chief who is now a prosecution witness, is still under investigation for leaking the tape to the network.

But Monday's decision does prevent the defence from using the tapes issue to abort prosecution of the drug case.

Assistant U.S. attorney Sonia O'Donnell said the prosecution may have committed errors, but there was no malice.

## Pakistan disappointed at Washington's aid cut

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said Tuesday it was disappointed the United States planned to cut aid by more than half even if Washington lifted a ban on assistance imposed because of doubts about Islamabad's nuclear programme.

"We are somewhat disappointed that the State Department has cut down the allocation that was to be given to Pakistan," a Foreign Ministry official said. The U.S. State Department, in a letter to Congress, said it was cutting its assistance to \$217 million from around \$750 million promised before the aid halt last October.

All military and new economic assistance was suspended when President George Bush failed to certify that Pakistan did not have nuclear weapons as he was required to under a congressional amendment.

"They can reduce or even stop it altogether. We are not keen to run about for that," Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on return from a Middle East tour Monday. Pakistani ministers said at the weekend they were aware an aid cut was coming but did not regard it as disastrous.

Since taking office last November Sharif has promoted self-reliance, but talks are going on at Foreign Ministry level to try to get American aid restored.

"We had thought that the matter of (the nuclear) certification would be resolved before the State Department went to Congress with a cutdown of assistance," the official said.

But even if Pakistan could persuade the United States to lift the aid suspension, the make-up of the new allocation makes it much less attractive.

A U.S. source said military assistance was previously all grant aid. Not only has the military allocation been chopped from \$229 million in fiscal 1990 to \$92 million, but \$83 million of it will now be concessional loans that have to be paid back.

Economic support grants have been cut from \$229 million to \$100 million and development assistance to about \$25 million.

If Pakistan cannot persuade Bush to accept its assurances that it is not developing nuclear weapons by about June, the

money would be spread around other countries.

Some economic and development aid continues to flow from previous allocations but all military assistance stopped on Oct. 1 and weapons ready for delivery were put into store.

A Western defence attaché said there was no evidence yet that Pakistan's fighting abilities had suffered because of a lack of new weapons or spare parts.

The 480,000-strong army was least affected, he said, but the navy and particularly the air force's two squadrons of 40 F-16 fighter aircraft could suffer from a lack of spares.

"I think that the way they are getting by at the moment is that they are cutting back their training to conserve them as an air weapon," he said.

Sharif flew back from the Middle East Monday to find his army chief openly questioning government backing for efforts to prise Iraq out of Kuwait.

Pakistan officially supports United Nations resolutions calling for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait and has sent 11,000 soldiers to help defend Saudi Arabia.

But faced with pro-Iraq protests in every major city each day, General Mirza Aslam Beg used an address to senior officers Monday to praise Iraqi "resilience." He called the Gulf war a Zionist plan to neutralise the Islamic World.

Sharif, at his first full news conference since taking office in November, appeared unaware of the general's outburst.

He was evasive when whether he agreed with the army chief of staff's statement that Iraq had been "encouraged" to invade Kuwait to provide a justification for war.

But the prime minister said Pakistan's troops would stay in Saudi Arabia, adding: "The policy of the government of Pakistan comes from the government."

The Pakistani army chief likened the fierce allied bombing of Iraq to the tragedy of Karbala — one of the most potent events in Islamic history — when the Prophet Mohammad's grandson was martyred 14 centuries ago in what is now Iraq.

But Sharif said "I do not think that anyone can sympathise with this idea."

## Patriot subcontractor jailed in billing fraud

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A defence subcontractor was sentenced to two years in prison for overcharging the government more than \$540,000 for sensors used in Patriot missiles.

Michael Martin Zarachoff, 45, president and owner of Temcom Inc., was also sentenced Monday in U.S. district court to five years' probation and ordered to pay back taxes plus interest and penalties on the money the government overpaid his company.

The controller of the Burbank Company, Nanci Plath, 42, was sentenced to five years' probation and fined \$10,000.

"If you think this is just a white-collar crime in which you took a little money, you're so far wrong it's not even funny," Judge Ronald S.W. Lew told the defendants.

"I am truly sorry," Zarachoff said before his sentencing.

Zarachoff and Plath, both of Los Angeles, each pleaded guilty on Dec. 4 to criminal conspiracy to commit defence contract fraud and tax evasion. Zarachoff also pleaded guilty to tax evasion and making a false statement to the Defence Department.

The fraud was discovered in 1986 by auditors at Raytheon, the main contractor for the Patriot missile system. Temcom's inch- (2-centimetre-) long sensors monitor the temperature of the missile's electronic components.

Raytheon paid Temcom \$193 for each sensor, but later switched to another subcontractor that charged only \$59, prosecutors said.

Assistant U.S. attorney Steven Madison said Zarachoff and Plath set up R-tube, a shell company that billed Temcom for goods and services it never provided. The phony costs were passed on to Raytheon and, ultimately, the government.

## Conflict between Serbs, Croats averted, but animosity remains

The Associated Press

BELGRADE — Open conflict between Yugoslavia's Serbian-dominated army and the rebel state of Croatia has been averted for now, but the ethnic groups' historical animosity remains unchanged.

Of the East European nations from Communism, only the Soviet Union can match Yugoslavia for complex ethnic relations and nationalistic tensions.

Several hundred thousand people were massacred by SS-like units of the puppet state the Germans created in Croatia after the Nazi invasion in World War II. The Yugoslav kingdom was founded in 1918.

In retaliation, thousands of Croats were killed by Partisans of Josip Broz Tito, the founder of Communist Yugoslavia.

Neither side has forgotten those killings. And since Tito's death in 1980, no leader has been able to hold similar sway over Yugoslavia's feuding ethnic groups.

The two largest ethnic groups in this country of 24 million — the 9.8 million Serbs and 5.4 million Croats — are also divided by political and economic differences.

Serbian animosity toward Croats had been stoked to fever pitch last Friday by the screening of a controversial, covertly filmed army documentary purporting to show Croatian ministers plotting to kill military opponents.

The Croats say the film is fake. For Serbs, it served as proof of long-held suspicions that Croats remain the enemy from World

War II.

Last weekend, Croatia's non-Communist government, which grants Yugoslavia's federation a changed into a loose association of independent states, and the army, which like Serbia favours communism and the status quo, backed away from open conflict between Croatian police and army units in the republic.

"We were on the verge of all-out war with the military and it's a miracle it didn't happen," Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman told the Associated Press.

### NEW ANALYSIS

The agreement, reached in Belgrade between Tudjman, Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic and the collective Federal Presidency, provides for the disbanding of Croatia's reserve police and the lifting of an army battle alert there.

The demobilisation order reportedly affects some 31,000 reserves of a total Croatian Police Force of about 50,000. An estimated 40,000 federal soldiers are located in Croatia and the neighbouring rebel republic of Slovenia.

"All parties appear to have been duly impressed by warnings from the United States administration that it would 'strongly oppose' any attempt to solve political problems by force," said a West European diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But the fragile compromise left

both sides fully armed and capable of quickly mobilising their forces, casting doubt on the longevity of the agreement.

Both sides claimed victory. In Communist-ruled Serbia, which shares the army's views, Belgrade's state-run Politika Ekspres trumpeted that "this is Tudjman's first serious defeat and could even lead to the end of his rule."

In the Croatian capital, Zagreb, Vjesnik newspaper proclaimed, "Croatia has successfully defended its honour."

But the tensions between the Croats and Serbs remain unaddressed.

As the compromise was achieved in Belgrade, an ominous signal came from Krajina, the part of Croatia inhabited by the republic's 500,000-member Serb minority. Jovan Raskovic, unofficial head of the Serb minority, directly challenged the Croats by saying elections soon will be held for a Krajina legislature. Krajina covers one-fourth of Croatia.

Meanwhile, Serbia's hardline Communist President Slobodan Milosevic has vowed to defend Croatia's Serb minority by changing the internal borders of Yugoslavia's states if necessary.

Any such attempt by Milosevic would certainly force Tudjman to make good on his promises to defend Croatia's political course with arms if necessary. Croat extremists want Tudjman to use force to reassert Croatian authority over the Serb minority.

It was a virtual rebellion by those Serbs last August that provided the pretext for the army units to be moved into Croatia in the first place.

## COLUMN

### Designer wins ovation for dazzling line

PARIS (R) — Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré presented his haute couture line for elite Paris fashion house Christian Dior Monday to an ovation that tore down the barriers of French conservatism. Ferré, hired by Dior in 1989, has proven to the world of Paris haute couture that he is worthy of the legendary label. His spring-summer collection combined the pure lines — femininity and sheer elegance that has made Dior one of France's best-selling designer names. "I've been coming to these shows since 1946 and this has taken on another dimension," said one French fashion illustrator. Elegantly tailored suits had vinyl cuffs, wide-dropped collars that revealed shoulder blades, or giant silk bows nestled beneath the ear or clipped to a skirt front. Deep pink, or black and white were Ferré's favourite colours. The enormous brims of flat straw hats extended beyond the models' shoulders like flying saucers. Highlights of the collection included a little slip dress with thin straps, embroidered solid with seashells, pearls and goldfish. Each haute couture dress is individually tailored and laboriously hand-stitched by specially-trained seamstresses. A single dress fetches between 80,000 and 200,000 francs (16,000 and \$40,000) and requires hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars to make.

### Baghdad cafe changes name

MONTPELLIER, France (R) — The Baghdad Cafe, a trendy drinking spot in the southern French town of Montpellier, hastily changed its name to Drum's Cafe after a rash of telephone bomb threats. The cafe's previous name had nothing to do with Iraq. It was named after a recent film entitled Baghdad Cafe which has a wide cult following among students.

### Book of paintings by Prince Charles to be published

LONDON (AP) — A book of watercolour paintings by Britain's Prince Charles is to be published this fall and any profits will go to charity, the publishers said. A spokesman for Little Brown and Co. U.K. Ltd. said Thursday that the Prince of Wales will write the text to accompany reproductions of about 70 of his paintings. Diana Holmes said the book will be available in both Britain and the United States, where Boston-based Little Brown and Co. will publish the prince's work. Most of the watercolours are landscapes painted in Britain or around a 14th century house in Urbino, Italy, birthplace of the painter Raphael. Ms. Holmes said. Some of the works in the book were exhibited by the 42-year-old heir to the British throne last year to raise funds for the repair of the spire of Salisbury Cathedral. Other paintings in the book are to be shown in May in a one-man show, the publishers said. The profits will go to the Prince of Wales' Charities Trust. Some previous fund recipients include Flood Relief for Wales and the Prince's Trust, which helps disadvantaged young people. Charles is involved with more than 400 charitable organisations.

### Trouserless bandit turns himself in

DETROIT (AP) — A robber armed with a hammer and wearing no trousers held up two stores, police said. The bottomless bandit later turned himself in, they said. Laurence Renkiewicz, 37, was arrested Thursday on armed robbery charges in district courts in Plymouth and Inkster. He was being held in Inkster in lieu of \$50,000 bond, police said. Detroit police said Renkiewicz also was a suspect in an armed robbery in Detroit, where a thief with a hammer wore a bag on his head — but wore trousers. The hold-ups started Sunday at a gas station and convenience store in Canton township, near Plymouth, said Canton township police detective Brian Schultz. The robber was wearing a plaid shirt, no trousers and a brown grocery bag over his head. Also that day, the KC liquor store in Detroit reported a man with a hammer and wearing a grocery bag with eye slits demanded money, police records showed. That robber was wearing a plaid shirt, blue jeans and trousers. A few hours later, the station boutique in Inkster reported being held up by a man who wore no trousers and no bag, said Inkster police.

## M.C. Hammer, Janet Jackson lead pack in music awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rapper M.C. Hammer dominated the 18th annual American Music Awards with five trophies while Janet Jackson picked up three awards in a ceremony marked by tributes to the armed forces overseas.

"I'd like to dedicate this award to the troops in the Gulf," Hammer said as he picked up his Soul-Rhythm and Blues Album Award for Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em."

Hammer, who had a leading seven nominations, also won Best Single for U Can't Touch This and Favorite Male Artist in the soul-rhythm and blues category, and Favorite Artist and Album in the rap category.

It was the second-best showing by an artist in the history of the awards. Michael Jackson remains the all-time leader after winning seven competitive trophies and the Award of Merit in 1984. Hammer lost only to Phil Col-

lins in the Male Pop-Rock Artist and Album Categories.

Miss Jackson, who entered with five nominations, won Favorite Female Artist in the categories of pop-rock, soul-rhythm and blues, and dance-music. She faced strong competition from the likes of Paula Abdul, Mariah Carey, Madonna, Sinead O'Connor and Regina Belle.

Quadruple-nominee Madonna won only once, taking the Dance-Music Single Trophy for Vogue. Vanilla Ice, a white rap star in a genre dominated by black artists, was named Top New Artist in both rap and pop-rock.

In accepting his award, Ice thanked his supporters but also made a crude suggestion for "the people who held me down and talked bad about me." Backstage he said he was referring to critics who don't believe "that a white guy like me can grow up in the streets."

Longtime rockers Aerosmith beat newcomers Bell Biv DeVoe and New Kids On The Block for Favourite Pop-Rock Group. Aerosmith also was named Favourite Artist in the heavy metal-hard rock category.

Country artist Merle Haggard got the Award of Merit, an overall noncompetitive award.

Jon Bon Jovi won Pop-Rock Single trophy for Blaze Of Glory from the Young Guns II soundtrack, which also earned him a Golden Globe trophy on Jan. 19.

Bon Jovi said backstage the war against Iraq has stirred his emotions.

"I've never prayed so much in my life," Bon Jovi said. "I wish this thing was over, because it's scaring the hell out of me."

In the heavy metal category, Slayer was named Top New Artist and Motley Crue's Dr. Feelgood won Favourite Album. The show was highlighted by former Miami Sound Machine

singer Gloria Estefan's first stage performance since suffering a broken back in a bus crash on March 20, 1990.

She sang Coming Out Of The Dark, receiving a standing ovation from the Shrine Auditorium crowd and hugs from her band.

Other performers in the two-hour, 55-minute show included Hammer, New Kids On The Block, Wilson Phillips, and Inna.

The Golden Globe Awards ceremony earlier this month was the first of the entertainment industry's annual celebrations to go forward despite the war. But its celebratory spirit was muted and at least one nominee stayed away, citing the conflict.

American Music Award nominees were compiled from year-end sales charts of the music industry magazine Cash Box. The show's producers, Dick Clark Productions Inc., sent ballots via a polling firm to a nationwide sampling of 20,000 record buyers to select the winners.